

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Thatcher policy chief leaving post

Mr John Hoskyns, the head of the Prime Minister's policy unit at Downing Street, at the end of next month (Anthony Bevins writes).

Mr John Hoskyns, aged 54, has worked with Mrs Margaret Thatcher for five years. He hopes to return to business. He served in the Rifle Brigade from 1945 to 1957 and joined IBM United Kingdom Ltd. He later founded a company.

The policy unit, which deals with issues of immediate interest and concern to the Prime Minister, is now left with one civil servant. No replacement has yet been chosen for Mr Hoskyns, who receives the salary of an Under-Secretary, £21,935 plus £1,067 London weighting.

It was stated last night that the departure of Mr Hoskyns and of Mr Robin Ibbot, head of the Central Policy Review Staff, at the end of this month, was coincidental.

Flying lessons for jobless

Twenty unemployed school leavers in the North-east are to be taught to fly and fly an aircraft. Sunderland, under a scheme financed by a £54,000 grant under the Youth Opportunities Programme (Ronald Faux writes).

The employers' decision also provoked an angry response from the traditionally moderate Assistant Masters and Mistresses' Association, which announced yesterday that it would be possible to reach agreement then.

Whitelaw to get plea on 'Romans'

By David Nicholson-Lord

The Government is likely to be asked next week to make parliamentary time available to amend the Theatres Act, 1968, which governs obscene displays in theatres and was thought to have abolished censorship of the stage.

An approach to Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary, is being organized by the Theatre Defence Fund after a prosecution for gross indecency was brought by Mrs. Mary Whitehouse against Mr Michael Bogdanov, director of *The Romans in Britain*, staged at the National Theatre.

The prosecution was abandoned on Thursday amid some confusion, leaving the legal position unclear.

The withdrawal of the case came to some overnight criticism by Mr Justice Stautham, judge at the Central Criminal Court, and implied strictures from Mr Kenneth Richardson, senior Treasury counsel representing the Attorney General.

What seems clear is that the decision not to proceed was initially taken by Mr Ian Kennedy, QC, counsel for the prosecution, because of the damage a conviction might do to Mr Bogdanov, who had apparently staged a homo-sexual rape scene in the play in good faith. Mr Kennedy told Mrs Whitehouse who, he said, "accepted and readily agreed" with his decision.

This happened on Wednesday, after the judge's ruling that there was a case to answer. But Mr Kennedy also told Lord Hutchinson of Lullingstone, QC, counsel for the defence, who in turn informed Mr Bogdanov. The two counsel

The judge, however, whose opinion was apparently that Mr Bogdanov should not have been told before the Attorney General had communicated Mr Kennedy's views, took a stronger view of the issues.

He told the court he had not been consulted before Mr Bogdanov was informed, adding: "Although I do not doubt that it was done with a good motive, I am bound to say that any notion that the trial could then and there be brought to a conclusion was misconceived and imprudent".

But other legal opinion was that Mr Kennedy, an experienced counsel whose earlier prosecutions include the Operation Julie drugs case and the IRA bombings in Aldershot, acted with "total propriety" and there was speculation that the judge's comments might be referred to the Bar Council.

Mrs Whitehouse said last night that she could not afford her estimated £20,000 legal costs for the prosecution, which she had brought as an individual and not as president of the National Viewers' and Listeners' Association. But she was optimistic about meeting the bill because of the "great number of people" who supported her action.

The move by the theatre defence fund was last night welcomed by Sir Roy Shaw, secretary-general of the Arts Council, who said the council would be sympathetic towards a joint approach to the Home Office.

In the council's first public comment on the case, Sir Roy said it would also be pressing Mr Paul Channon, Minister for the Arts, for a change in the Theatres Act.

Children die in house blaze

Three children died in a fire which destroyed their council home in Warrington, Cheshire, today. Their mother Mrs Edna Lythgoe, aged 39, was being treated for serious burns and head injuries last night.

The blaze started in the gas central heating system. Three weeks ago Mrs Lythgoe put out a fire in the central heating system. The dead children were Lynda, aged 15, Samantha, aged 14, and Graham, aged two.

Rye MP to retire

Mr Godman Irvine, Conservative MP for Rye since 1955, is not to seek re-election. Mr Irvine, aged 72, a barrister, has been a Deputy Speaker since 1979.

The Little Foxes'

The charity preview performance of *The Little Foxes*, mentioned on March 6, was in aid of Action Research for the Crippled Child as well as MIND.

Teachers press claim with half-day strikes

By Frances Gibb

Teachers yesterday agreed to mount a series of four half-day nationwide strikes, to start on March 29, after a decision by their employers not to refer a 12 per cent pay claim to arbitration.

The action, which would affect a quarter of all schools in England and Wales each day and probably mean closures, was agreed by the National Union of Teachers and the National Association of School Masters/Union of Women Teachers, which together represent 370,000 staff.

The management panel of the Burnham Committee, which negotiates teachers' pay in England and Wales, has offered an increase of 3.4 per cent. Its decision not to refer the claim to arbitration was made on Thursday after a meeting in which the management side was split between those wanting immediate arbitration and those urging further negotiations.

Further talks are to take place on Thursday, but if they break down the strike action will go ahead. Teachers will be called out in three regions at a time from Monday to Thursday.

Mr Fred Jarvis, general secretary of the NUT, said yesterday: "The local authorities are now bringing children into this dispute by refusing the peaceful and sensible way out offered by arbitration."

The employers' decision also provoked an angry response from the traditionally moderate Assistant Masters and Mistresses' Association,

Analysis of race cases attacked

By Richard Evans

Mr William Whitelaw is being criticized today by Britain's first Scarman-style police and community liaison group for allowing last week's racial breakdown of London street crime statistics to be published.

He will be told in the bluntest terms by the new group, based in Lambeth, south London, that the analysis will harm relations between police and the black community and will aid extremists.

"The task that you have set us of recreating confidence between the community and the police is difficult enough in all conscience. It has been made that much more superfluous by the singling out of these 'statistics', and cooperation has taken a step backwards," Father Charles Walker, the group chairman, says in a letter to the Home Secretary.

The liaison group, established in the liaison recommended in Lord Scarman's report into last year's Brixton riots, was formed only two weeks ago, with the active encouragement of Mr Whitelaw.

In his letter Father Walker, aged 58, a Roman Catholic priest, tells the Home Secretary: "Anxieties and indignation that figures so sensitive, drawing special attention to Lambeth and its black community, should have been isolated and issued in so insensitive and suggestive a manner."

He says the apparent identification of a minority community with violent crime "arouses intense emotions which extremists of all kinds rejoice to exploit".

Scotland Yard figures released last week disclosed that Lambeth had a total of 2,493 cases involving violent street crime in 1981, of which 1,988 were said to have been committed by coloured people.

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Spring host: Daffodils herald the coming season in Hyde Park, London.

Prosser murder trial ends

Prison officers acquitted

From Arthur Osman, Leicester

The three prison hospital officers acquitted of murder yesterday left Leicester Crown Court to a barrage of abuse, some from former prisoners who had sat in court throughout their 15-day trial. Others, who wept uncontrollably, included relatives of the dead man, Mr Barry Prosser, of Sedgley, West Midlands.

The three men hurried with police in attendance to the garage below the court building to cries of "murderers" and "you have got it coming". They were greeted by fellow prison officers in civilian clothes who applauded them as they walked down the ramp. The three drove away in a convoy of four cars with a police escort to renewed abuse.

In their wake they left the unanswered question of how Mr Prosser, aged 32, came by his injuries which led to his death in a hospital wing cell at Winston Green prison, Birmingham, where he was remanded in August, 1980.

It is unlikely the question will ever be resolved, but Mr Martin Kent-Davis, the family's solicitor, said a claim could be lodged with the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. An action against the Home Office was also contemplated.

It was learned that the men's appearance in the dock in a case that made history with a charge of murder against one of them being levelled three times, was ordered only after intervention by Mr William Whitelaw, Home Secretary, with the senior law officers, Sir Michael Havers, Attorney General, and Sir Thomas Hetherington, Director of Public Prosecutions.

After the verdict the Home Office said: "The three men are to remain on special paid leave. We will want to consider the evidence of the case and the judge's comments, as well as the verdicts, before taking any decision on their futures."

The three men are: Mr Melvin Jackson, aged 33, of Stourport on Severn, Hereford and Worcester, a prison officer since 1969; Mr Eric Smith, aged 32, of Tamworth, Staffordshire, in the prison service since 1975, and Mr Howard Price, aged 25, of Chasetown, West Midlands, a prison officer for five years.

Three male and female relatives collapsed in tears when the jury of four women and eight men returned after nine hours 15 minutes, which included an overnight stay in a hotel, to return not guilty.

Not guilty: Mr Howard Price, Mr Melvin Jackson, and Mr Eric Smith.

PROCEDURE REVIEW IN COMA CASE

From Our Correspondent, Ludlow

The Hereford and Worcester Area Health Authority is to seek a review of the procedures for investigating serious accidents in hospitals, as a result of a report of the case of an SAS soldier who was left in a coma by an operation mishap.

The authority, which met in private to discuss the report by three leading doctors on an incident involving Mr David Woodhouse, aged 28, at Hereford County Hospital, said later that it was unsatisfactory that the inquiry team had to rely on written evidence alone.

Mr Woodhouse, the father of four young daughters, has been in a coma since a routine appendicitis operation last May.

The AHA yesterday accepted the findings of the three-man inquiry team, which principally blamed human error by an anaesthetist.

However, the AHA statement yesterday said that Dr Ibrahim had worked at Hereford for seven months before the incident and had proved himself "trustworthy, conscientious and proficient doctor", who spoke and understood English well.

CABINET OF 1763 LEFT UNSOLD

By Geraldine Norman

Sal Room Correspondent

A mahogany cabinet made by William Hallett in 1763, which fetched £28,600 at Christie's in 1977, failed to sell at Sotheby's yesterday and was bought in for £14,000. It had been offered for sale in the £40,000-50,000 price range.

The trouble, according to Sotheby's expert, was that the collector who had bought up prices in this market was selling the piece.

A very fine quality satinwood breakfront bookcase of 1780, judiciously restored, fetched £27,500 (estimate £15,000-£20,000).

In contrast, a pair of side tables needing a good deal of patching up and dated around 1775 brought £23,100 (estimate £5,000-£8,000). They are eccentric pieces, with inlaid marble tops and 10 carved, tapering legs.

Other items that ran above £10,000 included a mahogany dining room suite at £19,000 (£5,000-£12,000) and a pair of handsome George II mahogany library armchairs, fresh on the market, for which Phillips and Harris paid £17,500 (estimate £4,000-£6,000).

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Coal spoil presents problems

By Geraldine Norman

Sal Room Correspondent

A new derelict land survey was to be undertaken at the end of this year. Mr John Smith, Under Secretary of State for Energy, said in replying to a debate in the Commons on the coal industry and the environment.

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science report
simulating
egrowth
damaged
nerves

the Staff of "Nature",
and the spinal cord
will not be
able to regrow, according
to Martin Benfey and
Albert J. Aguayo, both
of the Montreal General Hospital
and McGill University.

They believe that the
nerve damage to the
fingers is of
consequence, whereas
the spinal cord leads to para-

lytic damage to the
peripheral nerves.

Experiments carried
out in 1911 first suggested

that the spinal

or brain would re-

growing if the spinal

nerve extends to the

peripheral nervous system

in an impervious

skin. Segments of periph-

eral nervous tissue were

placed into rabbit brain

and shown to induce vigor-

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Tension mounts on West Bank as Arabs strike

From Christopher Walker, Ramallah, March 19

As large sections of the West Bank's 700,000 Palestinians began a 72-hour protest strike today the Israeli military authorities reinforced their latest clampdown by banning their latest clampdown by banning the three local Arabic newspapers in the occupied region.

The main visible effects of the strike were initially restricted to the two main Christian towns of Ramallah and Bethlehem. In the rest of the West Bank Friday is traditionally treated as a Muslim holiday when most business premises remain closed.

The ban came as tension among the Arabs was rising after yesterday's unprecedented Israeli decision to disband the entire elected Arab council of El-Bireh and replace it by a committee of Israeli military officers who will administer all local affairs.

Israeli troop reinforcements have been drafted into the area in anticipation of violent protests against the move, which is regarded as the beginning of a drive to disband a number of the most radical Palestinian municipalities.

Both Israeli and Arab critics have described the take over of El-Bireh town hall as a further step towards Israeli annexation of what the Government calls "Judea and Samaria".

The condiscision of the copies of *Al Fajir*, *Al Shabab* and *El Kuds* (as well as the weekly English language edition of *Al Fajir*) took place as the papers were being driven from their printing works in east Jerusalem for sale in the West Bank. The papers were still available in the Arab sector of Jerusalem.

Israeli military sources claimed that the editions had been seized because they breached strict military censorship regulations. This charge was flatly denied by Arab journalists involved in their production. The Israelis also said that they contained "inflammatory" material.

There were allegations by Palestinian leaders that the move was a deliberate attempt to restrict coverage of the widespread protests caused in the West Bank by the dissolution of El-Bireh council. All three papers have been strongly critical of the new Israeli civilian administration.

One senior *Al Fajir* journalist told me that the paper had written proof that all material in this morning's edition had been approved by the Israeli censor in the normal way. He denied that any attempt had been made to bypass censorship in reporting on the El-Bireh affair.

The move against the press came only two days after Mr Abba Eban, the opposition Labour spokesman on

Gandhi hopes high for better ties with Britain

From Trevor Fishlock, Delhi, March 19

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, reflected today on the difficult relationship between India and the United States and said she wished it were better. She said, too, that there was no question of any lessening in India's friend-

ship were warmer and better."

Mrs Gandhi said friendship with the Soviet Union was valuable and India wanted to retain it. They have stood by us and helped, especially in development, when no one else wanted to.

"There is no question of lessening friendship with the Soviet Union. We have not allowed them (the Russians) to influence our judgment, actions or policies."

Mrs Gandhi, who is visiting Britain from Sunday, We have made a global strategy and I do not know what part India plays in that, if any.

"It is up to them. We are not doing anything unfriendly. A lot in the world depends on the attitude of the United States, and I would be glad if the relation-

ship were warmer and better."

Mrs Gandhi said that some of the past had been unhappy, but "that is history and we are trying to give contemporary relevance to our relationship. An important part of this is economic cooperation." She hoped that the exhibitions showing Indian culture, science "and what we are trying to do in our country today" would help to make India better understood.

"India is not a country you can easily ignore. Most people like or dislike it as it is. Its complexities baffle them."

She said that the impressions many people had of

India were drawn from the press, and that visitors from abroad found the Indian reality quite different from the impressions they had gained from newspapers.

The role of the press came

up again when she talked of her image. "I am not dismayed by my image in the foreign press. It is so utterly incorrect it misleads, but it doesn't affect us (in India). We are doing what is right."

When she agreed she got on well with Mrs Thatcher, she added with a broad smile: "I get on well with most people, strange as it may seem. I get on well with President Reagan in Cancun ... on a personal basis."

Unrest in Ghana

Rawlings foils coup plot in Army

From Godfrey Morrison, Abidjan, March 19

Reliable reports reaching here of an abortive coup plot against Ghana's 11-week-old military Government confirm other indications that the regime's hold on power remains fragile. Its success in dealing with the country's economic plight has been meagre.

Flight-Lieutenant Jerry Rawlings seized power in a New Year's eve coup, overthrew the civilian Government of President Hilla Limann, since when the ruling Provisional National Defence Council has been waging a "holy war" against the country's endemic corruption, and has been trying to restore some kind of order to its chaotic finances.

One of the main threats to the defence council has been a lack of cohesion in the armed forces, of whom its power ultimately rests. It is therefore particularly ominous that the recent coup plot should have been discovered in the armed forces.

A reliable source told *The Times* that the plot was discovered in Accra on March 4, when an Army captain was seen taking part in a rehearsal for a parade to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of independence, due to be held two days later, and the Ghanaian security authorities, mindful of how President Sadat of Egypt was assassinated during a military parade, took him in for questioning. Under interrogation the officer apparently confessed, implicating four other officers and eight other soldiers, the source said.

When the parade was held it was noted that Flight-Lieutenant Rawlings was not his usual flamboyant self. Instead of arriving at the parade in full view of the public, standing on top of an armoured car, as is his wont, he was in the back of the vehicle and only emerged, surrounded by heavily armed bodyguards, when it arrived at the parade ground.

Qualified observers noted that he appeared to be wearing a flak jacket under his tunic and that throughout the ceremony he was surrounded by moving bodyguards which would have made it very difficult for any sniper to get a sight on him. Heavily armed guards stood

at the effect of such an order is mitigated to some extent by the defence council's success in decreeing reductions in such things as rents and transport charges.

But these are *ad hoc* measures and do not amount to a coherent economic policy to deal with such basic problems as runaway inflation and grossly overvalued currency. This uncertainty is a principal source of complaint among Ghana's traditional élite — the middle classes in government and the private sector. However, their power has been greatly curtailed by "peoples defence committees" run by junior staff members.

These committees, though initially popular with the man in the street, do not encourage discipline. But if the defence council is not clear about its economic strategy it certainly seems to know what it wants when it comes to the arts, and has launched what amounts to a cultural revolution.

Last week a defence council member said the government was going to ban foreign-oriented music on the radio.

Kenya bans play by left-wing novelist

From Charles Harrison, Nairobi, March 19

Kenya's leading novelist, Ngugi Wa Thiono, is protesting strongly here about the refusal of the Kenyan authorities to approve a performance of his latest play, *Mau Mau Njigira* (Mother tell it to me), which contrasts the cruelties and discriminations of pre-independent Kenya with present-day problems of the country's peasants.

Ngugi wrote the play in his native Kikuyu language, and it was to have been performed by a rural theatre cooperative, the Kamirithu group, from the Limuru area, near Nairobi. But the group's plan to present it at the National Theatre in Nairobi failed when the application for a permit brought no response — although they never received a formal rejection.

The issue has aroused great interest here. Ngugi is the author of several novels, including *Petals of Blood*, *Weep not Child* and *The River Between*. He was associate Professor of Literature at Nairobi University. He was detained in 1977. No reason was given for his detention, and he was released on the orders of President Daniel arap Moi after the death of President Kenyatta in 1978. He then applied for reinstatement at the university, but was unsuccessful.

The new play appears to have angered officials, probably because it is regarded as too left-wing in its ideas. Ngugi is a socialist, has visited Eastern Europe, and has made no secret of his dislike of Kenya's capitalist policies which, he says, have resulted in the exploitation of the peasants.

The play also appears to some of its critics to be seditious — in the sense that it is likely to cause hatred between Africans and whites by exaggerating the alleged indignities of a forced labour system 50 years ago, and by portraying African peasants being raped and crucified in their struggle for freedom.

The play is to a large extent allegorical, and would be unlikely to offend a sophisticated audience, but the authorities seem to fear its impact on the unsophisticated.

However, the official opposition has now gone further than banning one play, and the local chief has ordered the Kamirithu group to disband. Local police have dismantled the group's theatre, an open-air affair with simple seats for several hundred spectators, surrounded by a bamboo fence.

The group had been invited to travel to Zimbabwe to present the play there, but they are unlikely to be issued with passports. The Minister of Culture has not replied to letters seeking approval for the Zimbabwe trip, Ngugi says.

UNWANTED NAZI LOOT PILES UP

From Our Own Correspondent

Bonn, March 19

The decision of the United States to return Nazi-era art works seized by American troops after the last war has left the Government with the problem of what to do with one thousand of paintings no one really wants.

"We did not ask for them back," a government official said. The Government had simply accepted them after Congress passed a law permitting their return.

It is now exploring cheap ways of shipping them back to Germany. Officials will then have to try to trace their original owners.

Those which belonged to the State and those which remain unclaimed are expected to join counts of other Nazi-era works in museums, cellars and archives, looked at only by scholars and historians.

Workers grill the Pope

Leghorn, March 19. — The Pope braved the sting of hostile questions from Communist workers today during a visit to a chemical plant owned by the same company that employed him as a quarry worker in Poland during the Second World War.

The Pope flew to this busy Mediterranean port on the feast day of St Joseph and toured the Solvay plant employing 2,000 workers in a white helmet (above).

In 1940, the young Wojtyla avoided deportation to Nazi Germany by working in a Solvay factory near Cracow. He worked there for four years.

Members of the Communist trade union asked questions about unemployment, world hunger, high worker mortality, political activities by priests and alleged church interference in Italian politics.

While the questions were put politely to the Pope and one emotion-choked worker called him "your majesty," the tone was aggressive and applause resounded each time a worker finished.

Relying under the red flags of the chemical workers' union, the Pope dismissed about a 100 union leaders by saying: "You find yourselves in the position of bosses and I find myself in a position of the workers and there are many questions I cannot answer.

The Army summoned reinforcements, including airborne troops. Jeeps drove up squatters some of whom hid among the sparse vegetation. When caught, they refused to move and had to be dragged to the lorries for evacuation. The activists later said they would be back at Hamat Adar.

The operation had been

Florida lawyers file suit to free Haiti refugees

From Christopher Thomas, Miami, March 19

Crone refugee camp is an ugly yellow-brick structure that stands incongruously alone amid thousands of acres of tomato fields west of Miami, Florida.

Within its towering perimeter nearly 600 of the 2,100 Haitian refugees imprisoned in the United States spend endless, tedious days watching television programmes they cannot understand and wondering what the future holds.

America is acutely embarrassed by Crone, yet nobody seems to know what to do with it. Some see it as a human rights scandal. Others regard it as a chilling example of what could happen in a large scale if the United States had a huge influx of refugees, as well it might if the Central American turntours worsens.

The Haitian boat people fled from the regime of Jean-Claude Duvalier, who says that Washington says is not guilty of human rights violations. They arrived for the most part in leaky wooden boats. Many of them have been held for nine to 10 months.

Normally they could expect to be processed by the Department of Immigration and quickly released to relatives or others pending an immigration hearing. Since mid-1981 that has all changed.

The Reagan administration ordered illegal immigrants, not just Haitians, to be detained until their request for asylum is decided.

Attorneys representing the Haitian community in Florida are alleging that detention of the refugees is illegal and discriminatory, and initial proceedings have begun in the federal district court in Miami to try to secure their release.

The case centres on the right of the Crone inmates. The outcome could be important in shaping America's attitude to the future arrival of refugees on its shores and frontiers.

All the Haitians requested political asylum. Each is entitled to an individual hearing and has the right to a lawyer. All can appeal if the request is denied and all must be provided with a Creole translator. Quite simply, there are not enough hearing examiners, lawyers or translators available to cope with President Reagan's new policy.

The case centres on the right of the Crone inmates. The outcome could be important in shaping America's attitude to the future arrival of refugees on its shores and frontiers.

During the course of an investigation into police conduct under section 49 of the 1964 Act, the police claimed that they had been acting in the public interest. The court found that such claims were not justified.

The court held that the police had been acting in the public interest in the case of the Crone inmates.

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ft-wing
ovelist

im Charles Harrison
i Nairobi, March 19
ira's leading novelist,
i Wa Thiongo, is pro-
g, strongly here, about
refusal of the Kenya
rmance of his play, a
Maiti Ngiria (Mother
to me), which contrasts
cruelties and discrimi-
ns of pre-independent
a with present-day prob-
e of the country's pe-
ugli wrote the play in his
as to have been per-
ed by a rural theatre
erative, the Kabiria
from the Limuru area
to present it at the
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ke of Kenya's capital
ies, which, he says, have
in the exploitation of
servants

US conducts separate
inquiry into killings

San Salvador, March 19.—
The United States is conducting
its own investigation into
the deaths of the Dutch
journalists, amid speculation
that they might have been
shot deliberately instead of
being killed in a battle
between guerrillas and the
Army.

An American Embassy
source said the investigation
was motivated by an interest
in human rights and was
completely separate from the
investigation being conducted
by the Dutch embassy.
The Salvadorean Government
also has promised an investigation.

The embassy source said
American investigators went
to the hilly, brush-covered
region of Chalatenango
yesterday, where the bodies were
found yesterday, but there
was no immediate indication
of what if any conclusions
were reached.

The bodies of the four men
were taken to a medical
examiner's office in the
capital last night and a few
hours later were taken to a
morgue. Journalists who
saw them today said they had
multiple head and facial
wounds and that at least
some appeared to have been
shot several times in the face
and in the back of the head.
They were dressed in what
should be new clothes.

Two piles of bloody clothes
found at what was said to be
the site of the killings
showed apparent multiple
bullet holes. A large number
of spent M16 automatic rifle
casings were lying nearby.

The government said the
four journalists and four
guerrillas were killed in a
battle between the guerrillas
and an army patrol. The
journalists were trying to
cover the guerrilla side of the
civil war here that has
claimed more than 32,000
lives in the past two and a
half years.

Police break up rally

From Our Correspondent, Buenos Aires, March 19

Police broke up a human
rights rally staged by more
than 10,000 people in
Plaza de Mayo opposite
Government House yesterday.
No arrests were reported
in what was described by
human rights activists as the
biggest anti-government
demonstration since the
military took power in March.

The rally was attended by
senior Adolfo Perez Esquivel,
the Nobel peace prize winner,
politicians, the "Mothers of
Plaza de Mayo" who demand
to be told the fate of their
relatives who have disappeared,
and left-wing groups
protesting about the kidnapping
and murder of Senator

Ana Maria Martinez, a medical
worker and former member
of the socialist party.

Dutch envoy to investigate TV men's death

From Robert Schulz, Amsterdam, March 19

The Dutch Government has
ordered Baron Johannes
Speyart van Woerden, the
Dutch Ambassador to Mexico,
who is also accredited to El
Salvador, to investigate the
deaths of a four-man Dutch
television team in El Salvador
on Wednesday. Mr Max van
der Stoel, the Dutch foreign
minister, said that he was
"deeply shocked" by the deaths.

The four men were named
as Koos Koster, aged 46, Jan
Kuiper, aged 40, both
journalists, Joop Willems, aged
42, a cameraman, and
Hans ter Laag, aged 25, a
sound engineer.

In a joint statement the
main Dutch political parties,
the ruling Christian Democrats,
Labour and Democrats '66 and
the main opposition party, the
Liberals, expressed a
"deep dismay" over the
deaths. They added that the
event had confronted the
Netherlands with the seriousness
of human rights violations
in El Salvador.

According to IKON, the editor
of the television current
affairs programme for which
the team was working, said
that he was convinced the
four men had been murdered.
He said that after Mr
Koster had been questioned
last week for five hours by
the police in El Salvador as
to who his name had been
found on the body of a dead
guerrilla, a photograph of the
man had appeared in the
Salvador newspapers which
he concluded "is good as
outlawed them".

There were conflicting
reports as to how the men
died. According to one Dutch
correspondent in El Salvador:
"It is likely that the Army
first arrested them and
then shot them".

Another Dutch correspond-
ent there said that he had
seen the bodies in a mortuary
in San Salvador but could not
confirm reports that they had
been shot in the neck. He
said the bodies had multiple
shot wounds which could
indicate that they had been
caught in crossfire. According
to the El Salvador authorities
the four men had met their
deaths in crossfire between govern-
ment troops and rebels.

Flags flew at half mast
from all radio and television
stations in the Netherlands
today. The team had been
working for IKON television
which in Holland's complicated
broadcasting system
expresses the views of the
more progressive elements in
the Dutch churches.

According to IKON they
were going to film the lives
of people in the region of El
Paraiso in the Chalatenango
province. They were last seen
joking and laughing with
some soldiers as they started
off on the last stage of their
journey on foot.

IKON tonight broadcast a
film it had received a few
days ago from the team on
the elections to be held in El
Salvador on March 27.

Several hundred people
demonstrated in Amsterdam
in protest against the deaths.
The demonstration was initially
planned to call attention to
the human rights situation
in El Salvador.

The journey's end: Vietnamese boat people in Hongkong. They must stay in quarantine for six days before being allowed ashore.



Journey's end: Vietnamese boat people in Hongkong. They must stay in quarantine for six days before being allowed ashore.

Polls show crumbling support for Reagan

From Nicholas Ashford
Washington, March 19

After 14 months in office
President Reagan's popularity
rating has fallen slightly
below President Carter's
approval level after an equal
period in the White House,
according to the latest New
York Times - CBS news poll.

The poll showed that most
of Americans disagree with
the President's unyielding
stance on taxes and defence
spending. It also showed
increasing concern about the
Administration's handling of
foreign policy.

The main findings of the
poll have been supported by
another leading pollster, Mr
Louis Harris, who told a
meeting of the National
Association of Manufacturers
today that his surveys
also showed the President's
personal popularity dropping.
"Every sign I can read
from the results we are
getting would indicate that
support for President Reagan
is going to go lower before it
gets high again," Mr Harris said.

The New York Times CBS
News survey found that four
out of every five Americans
believed that the projected
budget deficit of \$91,500m
for 1983 was "something he
should worry about."

Mr John Nott, the British
Defence Secretary, was understood
to have urged the British to explain
how the Government could
afford to spend thousands of
millions of pounds on a
revamped Trident submarine
system without jeopardizing
its conventional forces. The
West Germans are concerned
that the British might not be
able to live up to all their
many NATO commitments.

During their review of the
world economy, both Mrs
Thatcher and Herr Schmidt
agreed that United States
interest rates were still much
too high. During the weeks
before the Versailles summit,
they will be urging the
American Administration to
make room for spending
on other projects. As things
stand, it seems increasingly
unlikely that the wrangle will
be resolved by the end of this
month.

Chequers summit

Schmidt underlines the need for unity

By David Cross

Mrs Margaret Thatcher
and Herr Helmut Schmidt,
the West German Chancellor,
spent yesterday at Chequers
reviewing Western economic
and defence problems in
what officials described as an
extremely relaxed atmosphere.

The two leaders, who were
meeting within the framework
of the six-monthly Anglo-West
German summits, concentrated
much of their attention on
the key topics likely to be
raised during the Nato
summit in Bonn and the
Western economic summit in
Versailles, both in June.

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month.

Dismal end for Buckley sanctions crusade

From Ian Murray
Brussels, March 19

A dismal week for the team
of senior United States
officials trying to coordinate
East-West trade in the wake
of the Polish crisis ended
here today with little indication
that Europe was prepared
to toughen its line with
the Soviet Union.

Mr James Buckley, under-
secretary in the State Department,
left the European
Commission after a series of
meetings saying he had
enjoyed a "Facinating con-
versation". They had talked
about exploring credits and
energy, but he would go into
no further detail.

It seems that Mr Buckley's
most promising offer during
his talks this week in Bonn,
London, Rome, Paris and
Brussels has been for a
tougher line on export credits.
The EEC has already agreed
to recommend to the organization
for Economic Cooperation and
Development (OECD) that it should
put the Soviet Union into a
higher category for these
credits and there is now a
growing view that it might be
possible to delete it com-
pletely from any list of
countries obtaining prefer-
ential treatment.

However, he was given a
clear impression that Europe
was determined to press
ahead with honouring con-
tracts on building the natural
gas pipeline linking Siberia
with West Germany. He was
also told that it was not
appropriate at present to talk
about any further restrictions
on Soviet trade above the
1 per cent cut now agreed
by member states.

The fact that a bishop will
be officiating at the rite
underlined the Roman Catholic
Church's continued
moral support for Mr Walesa
and his pro-Catholic union
and came after the most
forceful appeal for his
release to date by Archbishop
Josef Glemp, the primate of
Poland last week.

Mr Buckley: Enjoyed 'fas-
inating conversation.'

that this is almost impossible
European eyes.

□ WARSAW: Bishop Lech
Kaczyński of Gdansk will
officiate at the baptism on
Sunday of the baby daughter
of Mr Lech Walesa the
interned leader on Solidarność,
Poland's free trade union;

but Mr Walesa will probably
not be there. Father Henryk
Jankowski, his parish priest
(see Reuter reports).

Mr Walesa has been held in
special isolation near Warsaw
since martial law was pro-
claimed and his union sus-
pended three months ago.

Mrs Danuta Walesa, Mr
Walesa's wife, has said on
several occasions that she
believed she would not know
until the last moment if the
authorities did decide to
release her husband. "That's
the way they operate" she
said.

The American delegation
came to Europe with no great
hopes of persuading Europe
to take a marked tougher line
on the Soviet Union. Although
the Reagan Administration
is very anxious to see
the pipeline project dropped,
it has come to understand

Chancellor accuses Strauss of falsities

From Patricia Clough
Bonn, March 19

Herr Helmut Schmidt, the
West German Chancellor, today
angrily attacked Herr
Franz Josef Strauss, the
right-wing Christian Social
Union leader, for supposedly
spreading false impressions
about West Germany in
Washington.

It was dangerous for West
Germany that Herr Strauss
should lead senior American
politicians and the public to
believe that there was a
serious movement against the
Atlantic alliance here and
moreover that it was being
encouraged by the Government.

At the same time the Iraqi
News Agency released the
text of a letter from President
Saddam Hussein to President
Sekou Touré of Guinea, who chairs
the committee set up by the
Organization of the Islamic
Conference to try to get peace
negotiations going between
Iran and Iraq. In the letter,
the Iraqi President called for
the setting up of a committee
to decide who was responsible
for starting the war in
September 1980. Hitherto
the demand for a "tribunal"
to establish war guilt was a
demand of the Iranian side.

President Hussein said he
hoped "the truth will emerge
clearly so that the Islamic
peoples and world public
opinion can be better ac-
tivated with the extraordi-
nary circumstances which
caused the armed conflict".

Both the offensive and the
letter appear to be part of an
attempt by Iraq to persuade
Iran to accept a negotiated
peace rather than a fight
to the finish. So for Iran has
rejected any proposal for
negotiations while Iraqi
troops are still on Iranian
territory, and is believed to
be preparing a big new
offensive of its own.

□ Paris: The experimental
reactor Osirak, of the Tann-
muz nuclear research centre
near Baghdad, which the
French Government has
undertaken to rebuild under
certain conditions, could be
misused for military purposes,
even if a less enriched
variety of uranium were used
in it as fuel (Charles Har-
grave writes). This warning
is contained in a report
recently handed to President
Mitterrand by a group of
eminent nuclear physicists.

The Osirak reactor was
completely destroyed on
June 7, 1981, in a surprise
Israeli air raid just as it was
on the point of becoming
operational. The Israelis justi-
fied their attack with the
argument that the reactor
could be used to produce
plutonium for the manufac-
ture of a nuclear weapon. It
therefore constituted a grave
threat to their security.

The Chancellor denied in
his interview that there were
anti-American tendencies
here and pointed to a Gallup
Poll conducted recently in
six European countries
which found that support for
American troops and nuclear
missiles was strongest in
West Germany.

It was only sections of the
French public that were
misused for military purposes.

The Chancellor declared that
there was deep mistrust and
ill feeling towards the
Government and leading
politicians had given him the
impression that Herr
Schmidt had lost his credibility
in the United States. He
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After the refusal of the
Iraqi authorities to accept the
substitution of the 7 per cent
enriched variety of uranium,
known under the code name
"Caramell", the French
Government had taken steps
to ensure irradiation of the
fuel would be limited in
order to prevent its misuse
for military purposes.

The authors of the report
admit that the quantities of
93 per cent enriched uranium
delivered by France would
not have been sufficient to
produce enough plutonium
for use in a nuclear weapon.

Much colder weather
helped the British Transglobe
expedition to resume pro-
gress towards the North Pole
after days of being stranded
on melting ice floes.

□ Sultan Qaboos
returns home

Sultan Qaboos bin Said of
Oman left Britain yesterday
at the end of a three-day
state visit. He was to pay a
short private visit to West
Germany on his way home.

□ Expedition moves

Much colder weather
helped the British Transglobe
expedition to resume pro-
gress towards the North Pole
after days of being stranded
on melting ice floes.

□ Louvre
doors

From Paul Elliman, Managua, March 19

PARLIAMENT April 19 1982

Argentine withdrawal the only first step

FALKLANDS

Mr Francis Pym, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, made a statement in the Commons bringing MPs up to date on the latest situation in the Falkland Islands. He said: "Our objectives remain as already stated in the House."

Moving on is continuing (this statement went on) in his efforts to persuade the Argentine Government to agree to the United Nations' Resolution No 502. His mission provides the best hope of achieving that objective. The position is still delicate and the House will not expect me to reveal details of his negotiations.

We remain grateful to Mr Haig and shall continue to cooperate fully with his efforts.

Meanwhile we are stepping up the military, economic and diplomatic pressure on Argentina. Our naval task force is steadily approaching the area of the Falklands, and we are continuing to strengthen its ability to carry out whatever task is required.

I am glad to tell the House that Norway has today joined with the members of the European Community and certain important Commonwealth countries in banning imports from Argentina.

The 22 British scientists captured in South Georgia and the remaining seven from the Falklands, as well as 13 British scientists evacuated from South Georgia, have arrived safely in Mount Pleasant.

I am glad to say that they are now on their way back to Britain.

Fifteen British scientists remain in South Georgia and we have their well-being and safety very much in mind. The latest report on April 18 confirmed that all were safe and well.

The three British journalists arrested last week in Argentina are expected to appear before a judge today. The British Interests Section of the Swiss Embassy in Buenos Aires are keeping us informed of developments.

Argentina must have no doubts about our resolve to exercise our rights to the full. We should prove that we can. But I can assure the House that we are making every possible effort to get a satisfactory solution to this dispute by peaceful means.

The Government will continue to keep the House informed.

Mr Denis Healey, chief Opposition spokesman on foreign and Commonwealth affairs (Leeds, East Riding), also spoke when the decision of the Norwegian Government to join the Community in sanctions against Argentina.

The Opposition shares the Government's view that the decision to withdraw all of the Argentinian troops and other persons from the Falkland Islands before Britain engages in direct negotiations with Argentina for a peaceful settlement of the status of the islands.

All of us agree that Mr Haig's mission provides the best hope for a peaceful settlement, and I hope we shall all do everything we can to assist him in succeeding.

If no immediate agreement on sovereignty from the Argentine withdrawal can be reached — and this seems to be the moment to be the stumbling block according to statements by Secretary of State Mr Haig himself — will the Government consider asking the United Nations' Secretary-General to provide a temporary administrator for the islands after the Argentinian forces have left, so that the sovereignty issue can be put on one side for direct negotiations between Britain and the Argentines as is the desire of both sides in the House?

I apologise for posing a more hypothetical question to him, but the situation may arise before he next has an opportunity to make a statement.

If Mr Haig should finally decide — as he seemed on the point of doing twice in the week — that he really could contribute nothing more as an honest broker, will the Government consider asking the Secretary-General of the United Nations to undertake this role?

This is the first time the United States administration to express the views of the American people, that America should not behave as neutral between the aggressor and his victim or

between a democratic ally and a dictatorship whose actions have often been hostile to the United States in recent years.

Can the Government not reduce the forces at present available to the defence of Belize so long as the threat from Guatemala persists?

Mr Pym: I am grateful for what he said at the beginning of his intervention and for the shared objectives and the support that he and Mr Haig on what we are trying to achieve.

The vital thing to do first is to secure Argentinian withdrawal in accordance with the Secretary-General's Resolution 502. The methods, of course, are open to discussion, but that must be the first objective.

It would be wrong at the present time to consider what might happen if the negotiations of the mission not proving successful. It would be wrong to go beyond that. Every hope and at the moment must be to do everything possible to make that succeed.

As for the position of the United States itself, it has always seemed to me that while Mr Haig and the United States administration are trying to achieve the implementation of the principles of peaceful means, it would be inappropriate that they should be in any position other than a reasonably even-handed one, which is a clear statement of the position that must continue at the start.

As to Belize, I can give the assurance that there is no date fixed for any change in the situation there at the moment. We have the situation under control and in mind. There is no change envisaged in the foreseeable future in our military situation there.

The Argentine is acting in breach of a mandatory resolution of the United Nations and all members of the UN have an interest in seeing that until a permanent solution is found.

Mr John Wellbelove (Bexley, Erith and Croydon, SDP): Is it true that with the fleet moving towards the war zone, the Government is proposing to reduce the allowances of the sailors in the fleet?

Mr Pym: He must not believe all he reads in the papers. This is the result of the failure of the administration on the islands thereafter, during the period when negotiations between Britain and Argentina are proposed to proceed. It is the object of the Government to reduce the allowances of the sailors in the fleet?

Mr Pym: He must not believe all he reads in the papers. This is the result of the failure of the administration on the islands thereafter, during the period when negotiations between Britain and Argentina are proposed to proceed. It is the object of the Government to reduce the allowances of the sailors in the fleet?

Mr Pym: I note the suggestion and while the negotiations are in progress I cannot go beyond the objectives of the mission and the principles we have stated. We have explored many options in the course of these negotiations and there are difficulties about most or many of them, so this is not necessarily the way ahead.

Mr Russell Johnston (Inverness, LD): Do the publicly stated views of the British Ambassador to the United States represent the Government's view on the question of the attitude of the United States? Can he say anything more about the Soviet attitude?

Mr Pym: We have never disguised that these negotiations are clearly difficult and there are a number of obstacles. A great amount of work and ideas have been brought forward to try to resolve these difficulties. That is what the negotiations are about.

While these negotiations are going on, hopefully with a successful outcome, it would be wrong to stand in the way of the negotiations. It would be wrong to project our thoughts, or at any rate to project our comments in public at this particular stage, because it must remain our objective to do everything we can to ensure that Mr Haig's mission is successful.

Mr Enoch Powell (South Down, Off UU): In view of the Government's repeated assurances that no agreement affecting the future status of the Falkland Islands will be made without the consent of this House and the Falkland Islanders, is it not the case that the withdrawal of the Argentine forces from the Islands cannot be conditional upon such an agreement or on the possibility of such an agreement?

Mr Pym: We have never disguised that these negotiations are clearly difficult and there are a number of obstacles. A great amount of work and ideas have been brought forward to try to resolve these difficulties. That is what the negotiations are about.

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At 10 in the morning it was 90 in the shade and the shrill song of cicadas was like walking under the power lines of the national grid. There was a big city and its string of seaside suburbs are not the most appealing base for a high summer holiday.

Aghios Nikolaos is nearer what many people have in mind when they dream of Greek islands. Bustling tavernas line the quays. Fishing boats bob photogenically on turquoise water and small boys dive dramatically from cliffs round the harbour in a whooping day-long cabaret.

It is also possible to enjoy the natural splendours of Crete in a cocoon of unnaturally exclusive luxury. For as well as small towns and villages like Aghios Nikolaos and Chania, which have prospered on tourist spending, there are plush new developments like the Elounda Beach Hotel.

The museum of the bustling seaport capital Heraklion houses art treasures from the nearby Knossos excavations,

and both are likely to be compulsory pilgrimages for most visitors to Crete. But the big city and its string of seaside suburbs are not the most appealing base for a high summer holiday.

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The museum of the bustling seaport capital Heraklion houses art treasures from the nearby Knossos excavations,

main hotel building by paths lined with oleanders. Room service extends to the secluded sun terraces of these waterfront bungalows, from which dawn and sunset may be romantically viewed. Topless bathing is forbidden on the private beach and in the pool area — a nowadays unusual restriction.

For those who like local colour in measured doses there is a taverna in the grounds. The piano player's repertoire, like the menu, is international. And, of course, there is a disco, plush, pulsating, and sensibly positioned by the security gate on the far side of the car park.

If our modest hire car looked very small beside the big saloons lined up in the car park at Elounda, it seemed quite at home in the narrow streets of Aghios Galini on the less developed southern coast of Crete.

On the drive south the narrow road through parched mountain landscapes opens startlingly on to the green

Lassithi Plateau. Rugged windmills stand guard on the watershed pass. Tattered sails twack in the breeze and there are more windmills as far as the eye can see.

Embroidered linen and

crochet work, hand made by local womenfolk, and sometimes whole families, hangs from almost every house in

Tzermiado.

We asked a young woman

sewing at the door of her

shop if we might photograph

the old ladies in black

with her display of white

tablecloths and bedspreads.

She smiled at the courtesy, not

but brought her mother to

pose for the camera. The

nearby ancients were not

relatives, she explained.

I would have liked to linger

in Tzermiado, but Aghios Galini called. An unspoiled

fishing village is a descrip-

tion of it still found in

guidebooks. I wonder if the

authors have been there

lately. Haphazard new build-

ings look pretty enough from

the harbour. But the view

from hotel balconies is a less

S.C.P.

attractive vista of washing

and water tanks.

Sun, sea and reasonable prices attract throngs of young holidaymakers who pack the cramped stony beaches. Tavernas throb with pop music far into the night and the atmosphere is distinctly predatory.

Too many holidaymakers in any one place distort the local atmosphere they have travelled so far to experience. Plainly a great many people were hugely enjoying Crete in August, but I would like to return in spring.

Olympic Holidays offer a wide selection of holidays on Crete with direct flights to Iraklion. Self-catering apartment holidays based in Aghios Nikolaos cost from £187 for two weeks in low season.

A double bungalow on the waterfront at the Elounda Beach Hotel, half board in the high season (May 15 to October 31), costs about £55 a day.

S.C.P.

Surcharge/Derek Harris Long haul hikes

The good news about fuel surcharges on package holidays is that on short-haul holidays, for example to the Mediterranean, those late additions to the bill should be nil on the main summer brochure deals.

Surcharges are a persistent source of annoyance to travellers. The bad news is that in the wake of the Laker collapse, transatlantic carriers are trying to fight their way out of trading losses. So many long-haul holidays to North America, the Caribbean and elsewhere are likely to be hit by the full 10 per cent surcharge ceilings however imposed.

Variations in airport charges, from handling fees to paying for the security checks, vary, often at short notice, and so have an impact on surcharges. But this season the other main effect on surcharges will come from currency changes.

Currency surcharges on Spanish holidays should be at most 1.3 per cent of the holiday cost — not much over £3 on a typical fortnight's holiday for one — but could also be lower, according to Thomson Holidays. It is likely to be about the same

for Italian holidays, but lower, on for instance, North African and Malta Breaks.

In fact it would be surprising if Thomson and other key operators have not been able to negotiate airline arrangements to reduce such a liability. Thomas Cook, like some other operators, if gives customers the chance to opt out with a money back deal if surcharges go over 10 per cent. Thomas Cook which, like Thomson, had been using Laker as a carrier to some destinations, has renegotiated deals with airlines and expects to keep almost all the surcharges within the 10 per cent. What such companies always have to take into account is consequential losses if, when the surcharge goes over 10 per cent are so many cancellations that booked facilities like coaches also have to be cancelled.

With the trend strengthening towards late booking for many holidays it looks like if early booking this season has had its virtues where, as with big transatlantic operators like Jetset, there is a no-surchARGE guarantee if holidays are paid in advance.

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Stock Exchange Prices

Oils firm

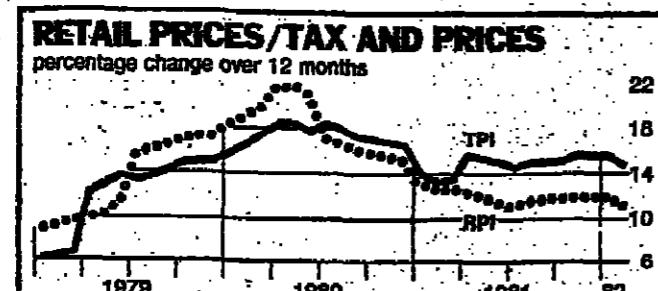
ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 15. Dealings End, March 26. 5 Contango Day, March 29. Settlement Day, April 5.

5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

1981/82 High Low Stock	Int. Price	Gross Chg Only	Dir. Yield	Yield	1981/82 High Low Company	Gross Dir. Yield pence % P/E											
BRITISH FUNDS																	
COMMERCIAL AND INDUSTRIAL																	
A - B																	
SHREWS																	
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		9,364 12/145		104	AAH	107	98	12/13		148	Gen Mir BDR	107	98	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		9,429 12/145		104	AAH Electronics	104	102	12/13		149	Minerals Ind	91	98	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		9,459 12/145		104	AAH Plc	104	102	12/13		150	Mining Supplies	127	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		9,500 12/145		104	ABG Research	104	102	12/13		151	Mitchell Corp	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		9,521 12/145		104	ABP Holdings	104	102	12/13		152	Mobius Eng	121	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,351 13/143		104	Aeronaut Bros	104	102	12/13		153	Montfort Knit	124	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,351 13/143		104	Antarctic Ser	104	102	12/13		154	Moteck	121	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,351 13/143		104	Antarctic Group	104	102	12/13		155	Montrose Dev	124	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,351 13/143		104	Aeronaut	104	102	12/13		156	Travis & Arnold	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,351 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		157	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		158	Turner	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		159	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		160	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		161	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		162	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		163	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		164	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		165	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		166	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		167	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		168	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		169	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		170	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		171	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		172	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		173	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		174	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		175	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		176	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		177	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		178	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		179	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		180	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		181	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		182	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		183	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		184	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		185	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	102	12/13		186	Turner Reaval	104	102	12/13
865 SBS Treas	984	1002	265		13,400 13/143		104	Alcan	104	1							

BUSINESS NEWS

Inflation rate slows



Britain's inflation rate fell to 11 per cent in February, half the peak rate of 22 per cent recorded in the spring of 1980. The Retail Price Index did not change in February, the first time there has been no increase for 12 years. The Tax and Prices Index went up by less than 0.1 per cent to stand at 14.1 per cent above its level a year earlier.

Beckett forecasts upturn

The recent rise in Britain's exports and the effects of falling world oil prices will lead to a "light lift off" in the economy in the second half of this year with accelerating effects being felt next year, Sir Terence Beckett, the Confederation of British Industry Director General, forecast in Belfast yesterday. In his first speech since the Budget, he said the Chancellor could have afforded to cut two percentage points off the national insurance surcharge without facing an excessive borrowing requirement.

Fleming finds a formula

Robert Fleming Investment Management seems to have achieved a reorganization of its investment trusts acceptable to its main shareholders. The new plans include unitization of three of the 13 trusts — to comply with institutional shareholders' preference for a reduction in the number of trusts. A leading critic of the early plans, Mr Ian Henderson, a director of London and Manchester Assurance, which increased its stake in Fleming's United States and General Trust to block the changes, said: "I have made my peace with the Fleming people. We have had full discussions before the announcement of the latest plans."

BP increases spot buying

BP is currently gearing up its oil buying on the spot market — at present to 25 per cent of its needs — in an attempt to cut trading losses, particularly on petro sales. But to get a reasonable return on even this cheapest source of supply, petrol prices at the pump should be near or at 16p, Mr Ian Walker, chief executive and managing director of BP Oil, said in London yesterday.

Rolls Royce Motors is cutting its workforce at Crewe by 300 with a voluntary redundancy scheme. Two hundred redundancies will take place immediately and the rest by the end of the year. Plans to increase production have been postponed.

MARKET SUMMARY

New gilt fixed at £97.50

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 562.7 rose 5.9
FT Gilt 68.45 rose 0.15
FT All Share 323.16 up 3.92
Bargains 18,408

Overseas buyers kept the gilt market alive yesterday despite applications for the new Government index-linked stock falling short of expectations.

The Bank of England surprised the market by fixing the opening price at £97.50, below earlier forecasts, with all orders allotted in full. The market had been expecting a sell-out with the price pitched at around £100. The news had little adverse effect on other gilt prices, but the three index-linked stocks fell by up to 2%.

In bonds, prices were helped by the latest set of Retail Price Index figures, and closed with gains of 2% after 2%, while shorts closed virtually unchanged.

Equities advanced because of the continuing bear squeeze helped Racal, to gain 15p to 385p, Cable & Wireless, rose 8p to 250p, and Plessey, added 8p to 385p. Brokers' James Capel are recommending Standard Telephone & Cables, up 8p at 533, after highlighting the potential for its optical fibres interests.

Huntley & Palmer, rose 2p to 92p despite the absence of a dawn raid by Nabisco, which is said to have considered the idea, but later abandoned it.

Details of European Ferries, latest move into the continental commercial property market produced several flurries, including the sale of a line of shares which failed to affect the price, 3p up at 82p. But a line of 400,000 Simon Engineering shares left the price 3p lighter at 37.5p.

Midland Bank received an unexpected boost from its full year figures, rising 13p to 348p. This in turn lifted the other majors with Barclays, up 8p at 438p, Lloyds, up 8p at 439p and National Westminster, 10p higher at 440p.

Robert H Lowe, the textile group, gained 5p to 53p after several stockists changed hands. GIB & Duffins rose 3p to 144p amid rumours that its Charlton and Filton subsidiary was for sale.

Equity turnover on March 18 was £118.284m (15,958 bargains).

Michael Clark

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,065.38, up 12.58.
Hongkong: Hang Seng Index 1,207.21, up 18.92.

COMMODITIES

Cocoa and tin producers took steps yesterday to support their flagging markets. The International Cocoa Organization agreed to borrow \$75m from a group of Brazilian banks and a Saudi Arabian bank. The loan will be financed by an increase in the levy from one cent to two cents a pound from October 1. Tin producers are likely to be called upon to cut their exports by 10 per cent. In the markets cocoa fell to its lowest for nine months. March cocoa was £25 lower at £1,071 a tonne, while May fell by £38 to £1,039. Dealers felt that the combination of higher West African and Brazilian crops and buffer stock managers' ability to remove only another 35,000 tonnes from the market was bullish.

CURRENCIES

The French franc rallied from early downward pressure. The pound lost ground to the dollar late in the day.

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.7995 down 105 points
Index 91.1 unchanged
DM4.3000
Fr.F11.1550
Yen459.50

Dollar Index 114.7 up 0.4
DM3.3830 up 85pts

Gold \$315.75 down \$7.25

MONEY MARKETS

Domestic Rates:
Base rates 13%
3-month interbank 13%
Euro Currency Rates:
3 month dollar 13%
3 month DM 9%
3 month Fr. 23-22

Slow start for inflation proof stocks

By John Whitmore, Financial Correspondent
The Government's move to extend the availability of inflation-proofed marketable stocks to all investors has got off to a slow start.

With existing index-linked stocks falling back after yesterday's better inflation news, the new stock could well open at a discount. The Bank has said it will not operate the stock as a "trap" below the striking price of £97.50.

Although no minimum tender price was set when the new stock was first announced last week, the Bank decided to set a striking price of £97.50. Here the real return is about 2% per cent.

Investors who applied for stock at £97.50 or above will be allotted as much stock as they applied for, all at a price of £97.50.

The Bank set its price at £97.50 because this produced a yield roughly in line with those available on the three existing index-linked stocks.

The yields on these stocks have fallen sharply since the Chancellor announced that, in future, index-linked stocks would be available to all investors and not just pension funds.

While it could be argued that index stocks should provide protection against currency depreciation over the longer term, on the assumption that many of their liabilities are fixed in nominal terms, and the exchange rate are loosely linked, investors are better off in conventional stocks at the moment.

Although overseas investors were reportedly nibbling at the existing stocks earlier in the week, many continued to be worried about the currency risk.

The loss at the trading level (before tax and interest) was £244.6m, a reduction of £50m on the previous year, which was boosted particularly by net interest charges



Taking a back seat with Sir Michael Edwards are (from left) Mr David Andrews, Mr Frank Fitzpatrick and Mr Ray Horrocks.

BL still on course despite £497m loss

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

BL, Britain's state-controlled motor group, is set to reduce its trading losses by almost half this year and is firmly on target to break even by the end of next year.

That was the message of Sir Michael Edwards, chairman, who said he was "more optimistic about the company's future today than at any time in the past four years."

Sir Michael was announcing BL's preliminary 1981 results, which, as expected, reveal an overall loss for 1981 of £497m compared with a 1980 deficit of £535.5m.

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to attract private capital. Recently, BL negotiated £270m of medium-term bank loans.

The ideal financial outcome for the company this year, Sir Michael said, would be to reduce trading losses to the same level as last year's half-year figure of £143m.

Substantial improvements occurred last year in the cars operation, with losses cut by £115m to £168m, although this was offset by a big increase in the troubled truck and bus division. Leyland Group's loss rose by £30 in 1980, to £74m and would have been worse but for the contribution made by profitable overseas companies.

Last year's total losses included £65m to cover redundancy payments to 1981 and 1982.

The chairman has, however, won the full backing of the government, particularly since accelerating the company's programme of disposals and decentralization in a bid

Opec agrees cut in oil production

From Jonathan Davis, Vienna, March 19

Oil ministers from the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) agreed tonight to set a ceiling of 18 million barrels a day on oil production. The Saudi minister, Shaikh Ahmed Z Yamani, announced the agreement, which will be held by Opec members to hold price of crude oil to pre

levels.

Delegates from Opec's member countries met two and a half hours in morning and again in afternoon. The talks said to be going well, many observers expected.

However, the proposal of Opec officials to cut production to a maximum of 18 million barrels a day, 60 per cent of OPEC output, was criticized by delegates for not being large enough to eliminate oil glut.

The Nigerians were reported to have demanded another large cut in oil from Saudi Arabia as a quid pro quo for trying to hold their prices at existing levels. The Al-Saud expressed for a 10% reduction in our oil production around 17.5m.

Dr. Humayun Berti, Venezuela's energy minister, said producers' oil price cuts, in response to oil glut, had been a lot of interest in parts of the group. "At the moment we're keeping as many as we possibly can in

work.

PLATT'S BANKERS HIT BACK

Mr Stuart Graham, Midland Bank's chief executive, responded angrily to criticism over the collapse of Stone-Platt.

"I don't like being told by other institutions how to run our business. Why don't they put their money where their mouth is?" he said. Midland was still committed to helping viable companies, he added. Mr Bill Mackay of Ernst & Whinney, the Stone-Platt receivers, said there were no plans for a rights issue.

The Nigerians were reported to have demanded another large cut in oil from Saudi Arabia as a quid pro quo for trying to hold their prices at existing levels.

Because of the surplus capacity throughout Europe, steel producers were engaged in a bitter price war which led to extensive rebates to customers. Monitored by the EEC Commission, producers have been cutting their rebates on a phased basis and the effect of BSC's forging increases from the beginning of April will still leave UK prices towards the higher end of the European scale.

Meanwhile, discussions are beginning over the future of the Commission's price regime for steel beyond the end of June. The Eurofer members have already said that they want the cartel to remain after June, subject to the Council of Ministers agreeing. But the industry's customers are expected to strongly resist further substantial price increases.

Customer sources claimed last night that BSC would be forgoing the planned increases over a day and a half. The breaches of the code of conduct were admitted but it was not intention to deceive. It is believed that the London-based stockbrokers also involved, T C Coombes & Co, will not be publicly censured.

The breaches of the code occurred between March 2 and March 5 when TVW instructed Potter to buy, through a London broker, more shares in Associated Communications Corporation.

The Panel's decision was made after six hours of talks spread over a day and a half.

Mr Holmes a Court, also chairman and chief executive of ACC, has two takeover bids on the table through TVW. It offers a top price of 130p a share for the entertainments and property empire.

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MONEY

Keeping ahead of the tax inspector

The Budget out of the financial diary is the end of matters to be with before April 5 if you want to minimize your liability.

Insistions

The self-employed and anyone who is in a non-pension job should check that they have taken best advantage of the full tax relief available on contributions to self-employed pension schemes. Tax relief is given at your highest marginal rate, and at the top end of the scale this means that the 40 per cent tax payer obtains £100 worth of investment for a net outlay of only £40.

For those retired in 1981-82 this could be the last chance to make a pension contribution without getting into difficulties over eligibility requirements. Maximum contribution is 17.5 per cent of "net relevant earnings" (income, less expenses) — higher for people over the age of 50.

It is possible to carry forward unused relief from previous years so if you have had a profitable 12 months, you might want to relate back some of your contributions to previous years.

Covenants

Parents who are paying to keep a child at university (or in other full-time education) can save 30 per cent of the child's maintenance costs by making payments to the child (who must be over 18) by a deed of covenant. A covenant is allowed tax relief (at the basic rate only) on the gross amount of a covenant, and the recipient is entitled to reclaim tax deducted at source (provided he or she remains a non-taxpayer).

The end of the tax year is a good time to set up a deed of covenant since the student offspring's income is known and you can make fairly precise calculations how much it is worth covenanting. Making a covenant now for 1981-82 reduces the amount of time before the student is able to reclaim tax. Covenants can be made between any two people — a parent and a godchild, for example — but in the case of a covenant, you will only be entitled to tax relief on payments made to your own children.

Assurance

You want to obtain tax relief on insurance premiums 1981-82, the premiums 1982-83 actually be paid before 15.1.1982.

Assurance relief is granted at a rate of 15 per cent for a

premiums paid on a qualifying life policy, up to a limit of £1,500 a year or a sixth of your income (whichever is the greater).

Husband/Wife

It may pay married couples with joint income of £17,000 or more to elect to be taxed separately. Under separate taxation (not to be confused with separate assessment where the total tax bill remains the same but is shared in proportion between the husband and wife) the husband loses the married man's tax allowance but both partners are entitled to a single person's allowance. As a result they can both claim up to £11,250 of taxable income each (1981-82) before becoming liable to higher rate tax.

If they are taxed together their joint income will clearly push them immediately into a higher rate tax band. The point at which it pays to opt for separate taxation is where the joint income is £17,000 or more. The figure will be higher if you have mortgage interest relief or maintenance payments to set off against income.

A wife's investment income is always treated as though it belonged to her husband and you should take this into account before making the separate taxation election. You can opt for separate taxation any time up to 12 months after the end of the tax year. Those choosing separate taxation for 1980-81 have until April 5 to decide.

Golden Handshake

Anyone being offered a redundancy payment of £50,000 or more should make up their mind before April 5. At the moment, the first £25,000 of a golden handshake is tax free and the excess is taxed at half your marginal rate. This means in effect that the maximum tax liability will be 30 per cent on the excess over £25,000.

For people made redundant after April 5, 1982 the first £25,000 is tax free, the next £25,000 is taxed at half your marginal rate, and the next £25,000 at three quarters of your marginal rate and the excess over £75,000 at your full rate.

Capital Gains Tax

The Chancellor made some important changes to CGT which we dealt with at length last week. It will pay you to realize capital gains within the annual exemptions (£3,000 for the current year, £5,000 for 1982-83). But it is less clear whether it is worthwhile "bed and breakfasting" (selling and buying

Lorna Bourke

Meagre return on new issue

The new twenty-fourth issue of National Savings certificates, announced by the Chancellor on his Budget speech, will be a disappointment to investors. It goes on sale on April 19 and offers a tax-free return of only 8.92 per cent over the five year term. Maximum investment is £2,500.

If you realize your losses, you can establish a lower base for index linking which will be to your disadvantage. In addition, index-linking does not start until one year after the date of acquisition so if you are bed and breakfasting you also lose 12 months inflation linking. This will not matter of course if you are simply cutting your losses and selling out for good. In that case you offset any capital loss against other capital gains.

Conclusion
The calculations necessary to establish whether a particular move is worthwhile are almost invariably complex. If you have substantial assets of income it will pay to consult an accountant. But for those left to wrestle with the problems alone, there is help available.

The Consumers Association publishes an excellent *Tax Saving Guide* every year in the March edition of *Money Which*. To obtain a copy you have to be a regular subscriber to both *Which* and the *Money Which* supplement.

The guide covers every aspect of personal taxation and gives simple worked examples and advice on how to deal with the Inland Revenue. All but the innumerate should be able to cope with their tax affairs after consulting the guide. An annual subscription to *Which* magazine and *Money Which* supplement costs £15 including post and is available from the Consumers Association, Caxton Hill, Hertford, SG13 7LZ.

Slightly more technical — but equally straightforward — is the *Hambro Tax Guide*. This costs £8 and is published by Queen Anne Press, Macdonald & Co, Paulton House, Shepherdess Walk, London N1 7LW.

The provisions for relating back pension contributions to previous years are complicated and if you feel you cannot deal with them, a pension consultant or registered insurance broker (not to mention insurance company representative) will be delighted to help.

Insurance companies are a mine of free information on Capital Transfer Tax, Life Assurance relief and pension relief.

Lorna Bourke



Grimsby fishermen: they will be happy with the scheme which nets them a guaranteed minimum pension.

A lifeline for fishermen

Grimsby fishermen who regularly face the elements to ensure our supplies of fresh fish, can set forth with renewed confidence in their future. The Grimsby Fishing Vessel Owners Association has set up a pension scheme for its 900 member fishermen on an industry-wide basis, removing the problem which comes with frequent job changes.

All employers will contribute 5 per cent of an employee's earnings up to £10,400 a year to the fund and the fishermen will be able to buy a one year income bond which offers 10.5 per cent

The scheme which is being managed by Save and Prosper offers a guaranteed minimum pension and contributions will be invested in Save and Prosper's Managed Pension fund.

Industry-based schemes — rare compared with the more usual employer-run pension funds — get around the problem of reduced pension benefits for early leavers. With an industry-based scheme the job-changer remains a member of the same pension fund and suffers no reduction of his benefits when moving from one firm to another.

Pensioners may earn more under new rules

Pensioners, the sick and disabled will be pleased at the prospect of higher state benefits in November. But this is not the only improvement. The Chancellor has also raised the limits on the amounts which can be earned while receiving benefits.

For the biggest group to benefit will be pensioners. At present they are allowed to earn just £52 a week. Above this limit, set almost three years ago, their pension starts to be reduced. From November the earnings limit will be £52.55, the earnings needed for the pension to be lost will be £12.

This rule applies to men aged between 65 and 70, and women between 60 and 65. Over those ages earnings, however high, do not affect the pension.

Most pensioners will tell you that there should not be an earnings limit at all, and indeed the Government has said it is committed to ending the rule, but only when economic circumstances permit.

Presently, the single pension is £29.60 a week. Earnings below £52 a week do not affect. Earnings of £52 cut the pension by £2, and as earnings increase beyond this, the pension is cut on a 10p for 10p basis. Weekly earnings of around £84 are enough to cancel the pension.

From November, the pension will be £32.85. Using the same formula, but based on the new £57 level, the pension will be lost when earnings reach £92 a week.

Where a wife is under pensionable age, her hus-

band's earnings can cut into any extra pension he gets for her. At present, a married couple's pension of £47.35 a week is lost when earnings go over this, the benefit stops. This limit has been in force since 1976 when invalid care allowance was first paid. This limit will double.

This will be the case for all pensioners, the sick and disabled will be pleased at the prospect of higher state benefits in November. But this is not the only improvement. The Chancellor has also raised the limits on the amounts which can be earned while receiving benefits.

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This will be the case for all pensioners, the sick and disabled will be pleased at the prospect of higher state benefits in November. But this is not the only improvement. The Chancellor has also raised the limits on the amounts which can be earned while receiving benefits.

For the biggest group to benefit will be pensioners. At present they are allowed to earn just £52 a week. Above this limit, set almost three years ago, their pension starts to be reduced. From November the earnings limit will be £52.55, the earnings needed for the pension to be lost will be £12.

This rule applies to men aged between 65 and 70, and women between 60 and 65. Over those ages earnings, however high, do not affect the pension.

Most pensioners will tell you that there should not be an earnings limit at all, and indeed the Government has said it is committed to ending the rule, but only when economic circumstances permit.

Presently, the single pension is £29.60 a week. Earnings below £52 a week do not affect. Earnings of £52 cut the pension by £2, and as earnings increase beyond this, the pension is cut on a 10p for 10p basis. Weekly earnings of around £84 are enough to cancel the pension.

From November, the pension will be £32.85. Using the same formula, but based on the new £57 level, the pension will be lost when earnings reach £92 a week.

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BUSINESS-NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

MILLS AND ALLEN

Selection strategy pays off

Mills and Allen International, the money broker, is concentrating on the business it knows best.

In the six months to December, the group, which is headed by Sir Ian Morrow, pushed pretax profits ahead by £1m to £6.22m because of a rise in earnings from the financial services division. This included first-time contributions from its companies in West Germany, and the United States, which were bought last spring. Group turnover in the period was up £2.9m to £29.9m.

At the attributable level profits are boosted by £1.74m, which, after tax and expenses, comes from MAP's disposal of its stake in Letraset. MAI sold its 9.9 per cent shareholding after it failed to gain control in a contested bid last year which the Swedish group Esselte finally won. So attributable profits are £4.99m compared with £2.7m last time. Earnings per share are 12 per cent higher at 25.9p.

Profits from MAI's media contracting division were similar to the previous year with higher profits from its Far Eastern media companies offsetting reduced profits from the United Kingdom and Belgian outdoor advertising interests.

In February two deals, worth £21.6m, brought the group Guy Butler, the United Kingdom money broker, and the Chardelaine Group, a



Sir Ian Morrow, chairman of MAI

leading United States Government securities dealer. Once these are merged money broking should contribute two-thirds of profits.

MAI's poster and advertising wing has also made further acquisitions. In January it bought 85 per cent of the David Koffel Group, one of Australia's leading cinema advertising contractors. Earlier this month it paid £1.15m for Poster Publicity Holdings.

The dividend for the half year is held at 2.14p gross. Earnings per share fell from 21.9p last time to 6.78p.

GEORGE OLIVER

Small advance

George Oliver (Footwear), which recently beat Ward White in a takeover contest for Hiltons Footwear with an agreed £9.8m bid, reports a small profits advance to £1.3m in the year to December.

This compares with £1.1m

leading trading conditions remaining extremely difficult

Stores cutback

With trading conditions remaining extremely difficult

WARING & GILLOW

Stores cutback

With trading conditions remaining extremely difficult

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in the previous year on sales up by £5m to £17.5m. The final gross dividend is lifted to 5.71p making a total payment of 7.44p against 6.29p last time.

An extraordinary credit of £55,000 relating to property disposals half year profits before tax were £1m against £2.8m in 1980, when the sale of the Regent Street store contributed £3.4m.

The board has undertaken a complete review of trading activities leading to the closure of a number of stores, largely in cities which had both a Waring & Gillow and a Maples store.

There are further closures to come both at home and in France, where losses from Maples' operations have been largely halted. But in the United States the group will shortly have seven stores which Mr John Cussins, managing director, hopes to see making a contribution to profits by next year.

Although there has been no improvement in trading in the second half, tight control on expenses and significant cost savings will be fully felt at 140p, representing 38 per cent of the equity, and valuing the group at £14.7m.

On the basis of dividends totalling 5.75p forecast for the year to April, this offers a prospective yield of 5.87 per cent at the issue price, and a net price earnings multiple of 13.6 on forecast pre-tax profits of £2.2m.

The group is one of the leaders in its field of supplying a complete package to airlines.

Although the group also has interests in mechanical and electrical contracting and in manufacturing microwave ovens, the directors expect the aviation division to remain predominant.

This is expected to come partly from the replacement of aircraft, partly from the growth in the market for computer aircraft, and the rest from defence spending by Western governments, the directors say.

The offer for sale, being made by County Bank, includes 500,000 net shares which will raise £340,000 net as additional working capital.

Brokers are Cazenove, and the offer closes on March 25.

Waring & Gillow is a private company. All figures are in £m. Dividends are shown as tax on per share. Dividends in France are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.425. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. a=Loss; b=Second interim in lieu of final.

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LATEST RESULTS

Company	Sales £m	Profits £m	Earnings per share	Div. pence	Pay date	Year's total
Ests. & G. Inv. (F)	4.89(3.78)	0.91(0.81)	4.1(8.6)	1.1b(1)	—	1.75(1.55)
Rowland Grant (F)	0.27(0.32)	0.05(0.06)	—	—	—	—
Lyon & Lyon (F)	0.04(0.48)	0.05(0.51)	0.48(5.84)	4.24(4.5)	20/5	6(6)
Mills & Allen (F)	22.98(20.02)	6.22(5.21)	3.1(3.5)	1.1b(1)	15/5	24(21)
Midland Bt (F)	232.2(221.8)	11.5(12.07)	1.6(1.4)	5/4	—	24(21)
Montfort (F)	9.81(10.85)	0.78(0.32a)	2.29(3.44)	11.0	—	0.20(0.2)
Geo. Oliver (F)	17.52(14.59)	1.31(1.18)	18.11(18.37)	4(3.3)	—	5.21(4.4)
York Mount (F)	2.88(2.44)	0.26(0.09)	1.32(0.52)	2.1	—	2.1(2.0)
Waring & Gillow (F)	42.2(39.9)	0.16(0.04)	1.78(2.0)	1.1(1.5)	15/5	0.35(0.35)

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failure of
transport

ited, employed 3,47 men against 5,26 in London. LT can point to the difference in its operations appear to be more efficient, however, says: "One of LT's ideas is that it is not very effective to ideas from outside. London routes but Westlands, for example, has shown that things can be done which LT is not able to do. A quarter of passengers use services which means that as people when commuters are traveling, that means faster collection".

Zonal fares also speed collection and encourage introduction of season tickets. It is one benefit that will not be matched to the Underground, however, have yet to be matched to the Underground.

On the Underground, issue of one-man operation, even more frequent, makes smaller.

A combination of the ability of management and the unions to agree a one-man operation, has meant London has lagged behind the national levels. It is now survey by LT staff of 27 underground contractors ran on single lines, while five others managed double running. LT's of those five, running one-man trains only on the Victoria line. The other operators expected to move shortly to complete one-man operation, but not

Despite ensuring the train ordered since 1979, equipped for one-man operation, no progress has been made. There is no agreement with the unions to run the

The outcome agreed three years ago provide a 7.5 per cent increase in staff who could be promoted to driver, as soon as the train comes in. As a result, would cost London Transport about £2m to bring one man operation on the line that have been equipped the same would be about £10m.

Leading article

**Laker plan
would
have failed'**

By Michael Baily

Transport Correspondent

Sir Freddie Laker would not have got the licences for a People's airline for which he suddenly withdrew his application on Friday, airline experts believe. They had already written off the venture, though not the man, for the foreseeable future.

It was not just that the application, by Breitling, Laker's shell company, was short of essential financial information; it lacked the necessary assets to be taken seriously at this stage.

One official commented yesterday: "In order to grant an air operator's certificate, the Civil Aviation Authority needs to satisfy itself that the applicant's staff and equipment meet the necessary standards. Breitling, however, had neither aircraft nor staff, nor an operating base." Laker's maintenance hangars at Gatwick were taken over by British Caledonian recently.

But the CAA's hearing on May 4 will go ahead despite the withdrawal of Breitling's application for Laker's four scheduled licences to New York, Los Angeles, Florida, Zurich and Hong Kong, and its charter licences to Canada and Europe.

The purpose is to hear British Caledonian's application for Laker's licences to Los Angeles and Zurich, with an objection from British Airways to the former and a rival application from Dan Air for the latter.

British Caledonian confirmed yesterday that it would not apply for a New York or Florida licence for the time being, but it remained an option for the future. The main reason is that Los Angeles can be operated with existing equipment whereas New York and Florida would require additional capacity.

Mr Alastair Pugh, British Caledonian's managing director, said that despite plans by British Airways to increase capacity across the Atlantic, Britain could well lose out in the short term from Laker's withdrawal.

Laker and British Airways divided Britain's half share of traffic about equally and it was perhaps too much to expect British Airways to pick up all Laker's traffic. But British Caledonian had its hands too.

An angry attack on Sir Freddie Laker and Britain's attitude towards him was made by Swissair's national airline at its annual meeting in Berne.

Far from being a folk hero, Sir Freddie was a "cavalier capitalist" lacking a sense of responsibility, Swissair said.

TUC seeks to block Howe's jobless scheme

By Donald Macintyre, Labour Correspondent

The TUC is to use its influence on the Manpower Services Commission (MSC) in an attempt to resist the government's plan for a community works scheme for the long-term unemployed.

The three TUC members of the commission have been briefed to argue at a meeting tomorrow that the scheme, announced by Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Budget speech, has a number of serious implications adverse to the interests of trade unions and unemployed people.

A Congress House report on the long-term unemployed scheme was approved last week by the TUC's employment policy and organization committee, chaired by Mr William Keys, one of the three TUC commissioners, all of whom will make their opposition clear when the commission debates the government's proposals tomorrow. The other two are Mr Kenneth Baker and Mr Kenneth Graham.

The TUC argues that the community works project will be divisive, two-tier level of special provision for unemployed adults by paying them about £30 a week, including expenses, compared with wages of up to £29 a week in the Community Enterprise programme.

Payments would be unattractive, the TUC officials claim, because the Government would be inviting the adult unemployed to work on a community project for their unemployment benefit and a refund of expenses they incurred.

The confidential TUC paper also expresses concern that the Government is expecting local councils, as well as voluntary organizations and churches, to run community projects with volunteers from the adult unemployed. That is said to raise the question of possible "substitution of voluntary workers for properly recruited and paid staff in public and community services".

The TUC complains that the Government has refused to double the number of Community Enterprise programme places to 60,000, and urges the MSC to formulate proposals for improving provisions to the long-term unemployed.

In a letter to Sir Richard O'Brien, MSC chairman, on March 9, Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, said that the Government fully shared concern about the plight of the long-term unemployed.

Explaining the Chancellor's announcement, Mr Tebbit added: "Many people have pointed to the absurdity of the situation in which many people registered as unemployed would be willing to do something useful

"The key point to what I did is that this was the

National Theatre . . . the theatre that belongs to all of us, which gives an image of Britain to the whole world.

"I love Britain I care for what the world thinks about Britain. I do not want the world to look at what happens on the National Theatre stage and say 'Good Heavens, the British really

now are in a state where they can do that on the National stage, and nobody cares'.

I do care. That is why I did what I did," she said.

Mrs Whitehouse, who was interviewed on the BBC radio programme, *Sunday*, said she was not worried about the money that would be needed to pay the legal costs of her prosecution.

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Affiliation goes to Nalgo poll

By David Felton Labour Reporter

The Electoral Reform Society today starts the ballot process that will decide whether the 800,000-strong

National and Local Government Officers Association, the country's fourth largest union, affiliates to the Labour Party.

Union members will probably not receive their ballot papers until early next week when they are distributed at branch level. Each member of the "town hall" union has a secret postal vote.

Campaigning on the affiliation issue has been going on in the union since last year's annual conference, which

decided the ballot but sup-

porters and opponents both

agreed about a lack of interest among traditionally moderate Nalgo members.

In spite of the apparent apathy, both groups agree that it is virtually certain the union members will decide against affiliation. Mr James White, Nalgo executive member and secretary of Fight for Labour Affiliation Group (Flag), said last night: "Anyone who imagines that on the first ballot we are going to succeed would have to be a raging optimist".

Mr White, who is one of more than 20 executive members supporting affiliation, said the aim was to keep the issue alive among

May 8.

**SMOKERS
OBJECT TO
BR BAN**

By a Staff Reporter

British Rail is banning smoking in almost all its

restaurant and buffet cars after a successful six-month experiment in the Western Region. Passengers who break the rule will be liable to be fined £50 and stewards are being asked to report people who ignore the ban. Some reserved seats will be exempt.

The decision was criticized

yesterday by the Freedom

Organization for the Right to Enjoy Smoking Tobacco (FOREST), which accused Sir Peter Parker, chairman of British Rail, of acting in an intolerant and patronizing

man's way.

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Caledonian's managing director, said that despite plans by British Airways to increase capacity across the Atlantic, Britain could well lose out in the short term from Laker's withdrawal.

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Warm hands join to defend the peace

Wood fires were essential to keep

warm and dry last night as women

and men from the Greenham Common

peace camp took it in turn to sit

down in the roadway, blocking the

six entrances to the base.

Ms Lesley Boulton, one of the

organizers, said the action was

intended to be peaceful and the

women had been instructed not to

resist arrest. She added that they

would not try to stop children

attending the American school at

the base or to prevent emergency

services getting through.

The protest was organized by

members of a women's peace camp

which was established outside the

main entrance at Greenham Common

last September. Some 15

women have been living there in

tents and caravans. The blockade

was the climax to a festival of life

at the base attended by nuclear

disarmament supporters from as

far afield as Scotland, Yorkshire

and South Wales. Thames Valley

police estimated the attendance at

5,000. Many arrived in coaches and

brought babies and young

children.

Throughout the day the six

entrances to the base were the

focus of activities including re

ligious worship, music and dancing

and poetry readings.

The hidden dangers of

high blood pressure

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

Between 15 and 20 per cent of adults in Britain may have high blood pressure, but it is symptomless, they are often unaware of it, a book published today says.

Adults should be encouraged to have regular blood pressure checks, and persevering because proper machines to register blood pressure could usefully be installed in stores, airports and railway stations, it suggests.

Doctors and patients should work closely together on treatment because some drugs which control blood pressure have unpleasant side-effects, so it may be necessary to experiment with several until a suitable one is found.

High Blood Pressure: What It Means For You: How To Control It (Martin Dunitz, £2.50).

The book's authors, Dr Eoin O'Brien and Professor Kevin O'Malley, codirectors of the blood pressure clinic at the Charitable Infirmary, Dublin, suggest that finding the right drug may take four or five visits. But it is worth persevering because proper and continuous treatment greatly reduces the risk of strokes and heart attacks.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

No damages in tampon case win

Denver, Colorado. — An 18-year-old girl who suffered toxic shock syndrome through tampons has won her case against the manufacturer but failed to receive the \$25m (£14m) she claimed as compensation and punitive damages.

A federal jury ruled that the Procter and Gamble company was negligent in its manufacture and sale of a defective product but it awarded no money or medical expenses to Miss Deletha Dawn Lampshire.

The jury said the company had not breached its warranty on its Rely brand tampons which were withdrawn from the market in September 1980, and could not be held for damages.

Malta and Libya improve links

Valetta. — Malta and Libya have ratified their 1976 agreement to take their offshore oil exploration dispute to the International Court of Justice at the Hague.

The agreement was a result of the unexpected meeting between Colonel Gaddafi and Mr Dom Mintoff ten days ago, which eased the strained relations between the two governments which had existed since 1980. Trade and diplomatic relations are now expected to return to normal.

New bones find in Antarctica

Washington. — Scientists have discovered the first bones of a land mammal in Antarctica, the National Science Foundation said, strengthening the evidence that South America and Antarctica were linked in prehistoric times.

The foundation, which finances and manages American scientific activities in Antarctica, said that the bones of a rat-like mammal were found in a graveyard of strange prehistoric skeletons, which included those of six penguins, a 40ft plesiosaur, (a marine reptile), and a mosasaur, a lizard with paddle-like limbs.

Seven killed in south Lebanon

Sidon. — At least seven people have been killed and 10 injured in clashes between rival militias in the Southern Village of Ayn Qana, travellers said. Security sources said the hostilities were between the Arab Shi'ite muslim paramilitary organization and supporters of the pro-Iraq Baath Party.

Schmidt's party loses heavily in Saxony poll

From Patricia Clough, Bonn, March 21

Herr Helmut Schmidt's party, the Social Democrats (SPD), suffered severe losses in today's lower Saxony Land elections, seen here as an important test of West Germany's political mood.

The first results showed that the Christian Democrats, who hope to take over from the chancellor's frayed 12-year-old coalition as soon as possible, were heading for an absolute majority.

The Liberal Free Democrats (FDP) fell below the 5 per cent minimum needed for representation. At this time, seemed assured of seats in the new parliament while the ecological Green Party also looks likely to be represented.

The first computer forecasts, based on about one-third of the voting districts, forecast a loss of around 6 per cent for the Chancellor's party, from 42 per cent to somewhere around 36.3 per cent. The Christian Democrats, who last time polled 48.7 per cent, won around 51 per cent, so that they will be able to rule without a coalition partner. The Free Democrats were said to have gained more than 2 per cent to achieve 6.7 per cent and the Greens were also up by

a huge personal victory for Herr Ernst Albrecht, the popular and successful Lower Saxony Prime Minister, and will strengthen his position as a rival to Herr Helmut Kō, the Christian Democrat Party chairman, as a future Chancellor.

The results appear to confirm the trend that the SPD are losing the votes of younger people to the Greens and other alternative groups

40 miles

NORTH SEA

Bremenhaven

Ostfriesland

Hamburg

Weser

Bremen

Lower Saxony

Osнnabrück

Bruneck

WEST GERMANY

EAST GERMANY

40 miles

WEST GERMANY

Polish journalist braves arrest to attack ban

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw, March 21

Mr Stefan Bratkowski, one of Poland's leading journalists and a prominent Marxist reformer, emerged from hiding this weekend and promptly attacked the decision of the martial law authorities to dissolve the Polish journalists' association.

Mr Bratkowski's appearance after over three months of moving from flat to flat to avoid detention (though it is still not clear whether there is a warrant for his internment) comes at a time of intense controversy over the role of journalists in Poland.

As president of the association during the Solidarity era in 1980-1981, Mr Bratkowski helped to shape it into one of the most radically reformist organizations constantly urging the authorities to ease censorship and democratize society.

However, the martial law authorities announced on Saturday that they had dissolved the association because some of its leaders "openly sided with undergrounds of extreme-right capitalist groupings, going so far as to publish tendentious accusations levelled against state authority".

This is partly a reference to articles that Mr Bratkowski has managed to smuggle out to the West since martial law was imposed. The dissolution came after an obviously orchestrated

two-week campaign, during which Communist Party journalists on a Poznan newspaper, *Przybuna Lada*, the party daily, and from television sought the scrapping of the association.

Mr Bratkowski, in a statement made available to *The Times* and another Western reporter, described the dissolution of the association as "the final blow in the series of unjustified and illegal repressive actions directed at our profession over the past few months".

Journalists were being subjected to a humiliating process of political vetting. Mr Bratkowski said: "The association had, he said, fought against 'the brutal exploitation of the mass media as a crude instrument of propaganda'."

"Today, those in power have again made propaganda into a crime-generating element in our society. They are trying to do it through us journalists and thus destroy the credibility that we managed to build up for the mass media over the past year".

The statement was signed by other leading journalists, including Mr Maciej Szumowski, ousted editor of the Cracow party daily.

The decision to dissolve the association has bitterly divided the Polish journalistic community which, along with judges and university

authorities tried briefly to create an alternative journalist union. Both bodies were suspended after December 13.

Sitar and science for Gandhi

By David Cross

Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, arrived in London last night for a five-day visit which she hopes will help to foster a better relationship with her country's former colonial masters.

Certainly the occasion for her visit, the opening of a seven-month celebration of India's cultural heritage, should help to focus attention on the positive rather than the negative aspects of the long ties between the two countries. Mrs Gandhi hopes that the many exhibitions showing the arts, sciences and other disciplines will help to make India better understood by the British.

The visit begins with several hours of talks between Mrs Gandhi and Mrs Thatcher. The Festival of India is to be launched with a concert at the Festival Hall to be attended by both Prime Ministers.

The programme will include the European première of Ravi Shankar's second concerto for the sitar played by the composer. The concert will be followed by a British Government reception.

Tomorrow after talks with Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition, Mrs Gandhi will visit a number of exhibitions, including a permanent biographical exhibition of Nehru and a show mainly of sculptures and paintings from the third century BC to the nineteenth century at the Hayward Gallery.

On Wednesday, after a press conference, Mrs Gandhi will lunch with the Queen and open a Science in India exhibition at the Science Museum in Kensington.

Thursday and most of Friday will be spent in India.

Profile, page 10
Leading article, page 11
Export contracts, page 13

■ Delhi: A powerful Soviet military delegation has com-



French at the front: Dr Jean-Louis Hermann, a French doctor working for Aide Medicale Internationale, examining a guerrilla fighter in the Loghar region of Afghanistan.

Soviet 'atrocities' condemned by doctors

From Edward Girardet, Paris

For the past year and a half, three French medical organizations have been discreetly operating clandestine relief missions in the mountains and valleys of resistance-held Afghanistan.

In recent weeks, they have become increasingly outspoken against what they consider to be atrocities against the civilian population by the Soviet occupation forces.

At present, the Paris-based Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), Aide Médicale Internationale (AMI) and Médecins du Monde (MDM), whose medical teams are active in war zones elsewhere in the world including Cambodia, Kurdistan and El Salvador, are the only Western humanitarian groups to work inside Afghanistan on a permanent basis.

Regarding this as a deliberate intimidation tactic, the doctors of MSF and AMI decided to publicly upbraid the Russians by explaining their position to the media. They said that they were also deeply concerned by an upsurge in recent months of communist attacks against towns and villages intended to demoralize the local population and deny support to the guerrillas.

The French doctors have not come across any direct evidence of chemical warfare by the Russians but have heard numerous reports from Afghans that point to its use. Some victims, they said, bore traces such as blackened skin, blisters and other

symptoms that seemed to suggest chemical attacks.

In one case, the doctors examined a man victim with body burns which they said could have come from napalm or a similar chemical.

"The Russians have been conducting a reign of terror," said Dr Claude Malherre, executive director of MSF. "We feel it is now up to world public opinion to pressure the Russians into stopping such atrocities." Western military analysts have also recently drawn attention to what they feel to be a more brutal attempt by the Russians to crush resistance.

Returning French teams in some cases have been able to provide first-hand evidence of communist bombardments and military incursions.

One AMI team, which returned earlier this month after spending the winter in the Panjshir valley, north of Kabul, said that they had seen 13 aerial attacks since December. French doctors were also present when an estimated 15,000 Soviet and Afghan troops launched an offensive against the valley in early autumn.

More recently, the team said, they had treated severely injured Afghans

during an 11-day sweep in early February by mainly Soviet troops in Kohistan at the mouth of the Panjshir valley.

According to Marie-Paul Soleil, an AMI nurse, local resistance leaders and refugees had told them that more than 1,000 civilians had been killed including at least 400 Afghans executed by the Russians. She said that according to the report they had recovered "most of them were machine-gunned by they also took 16 white-bearded old men from a village called Bulehara, doused them with petrol and burned them".

With most Afghan doctors having fled the country or living in the communist-occupied towns, perhaps as many as eight million Afghans in the resistance-held regions are forced to rely on this small, scattered handful of foreign doctors for medical care.

Relying primarily on public donations for support, the organizations are trying to send more missions to Afghanistan. At the moment there are no British doctors working inside Afghanistan but the French are keen to combine efforts with other countries.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Tremors hit Japan and Italy

An earthquake in Japan has injured at least 80 people and in southern Italy thousands panicked after strong tremors struck the region.

Six of the Japanese fatalities were seriously hurt when a severe earthquake shook Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido.

The tremor, measuring 7.3 on the Richter scale, caused a landslide which disrupted rail services for three hours.

In southern Italy the strong tremors sent thousands of people fleeing panic-stricken into the streets throughout the region. The area was devastated by earthquakes in 1980.

Kirilenko beats Kremlinologists

Moscow. — Mr Andrei Kirilenko, a member of the Soviet Politburo, was named among Kremlin officials who signed an obituary for a war hero, thereby ending speculation in the West that he may have been dropped from the party leadership.

Mr Kirilenko has appeared in public only once in the past six weeks, and has been conspicuously absent from important state occasions. Some Soviet sources say that the 75-year-old politician, who was long considered a likely successor to Mr Leonid Brezhnev as party leader, has been unwell for the past few weeks.

Military crash victims found

Wonder Lake, Illinois — search crews, crossing snowy fields on foot and horseback have recovered the bodies of all 27 people killed when a United States military jet exploded during a thunderstorm on Friday night.

Those killed were the four crew and all 23 air force reserve passengers.

Mugabe's wife leaves hospital



Salisbury. — Mrs Sally Mugabe, wife of Mr Robert Mugabe, the Zimbabwe Prime Minister, who returned home after spending more than two months in a London hospital being treated for a kidney condition.

Mrs Mugabe was met at the Salisbury International Airport by her husband and members of the family. Mr Nathan Shamuyarira, the Information Minister, said she had recovered sufficiently to make the return journey.

Disease slows Danish exports

Copenhagen. — The United States joined Japan, Norway, Sweden and Finland in banning all fresh and frozen meat imports from Denmark after a single case of foot and mouth disease reported on the Danish island of Funen (Christopher Follett writes). About 17 per cent of Denmark's total meat exports — largely pork — are affected.

There were no difficulties over meat exports to EEC countries, in particular Britain, Denmark's biggest customer.

Khomeini takes a 10-day rest

Tehran. — Ayatollah Khomeini has announced that he is to take a 10-day rest from all official duties, Iran state radio reported.

The ayatollah, who is 82 and has a heart condition, tried to take a break last month. He returned to public life after 10 days when there was speculation in the West that he might be seriously ill.

Bandaranaike party rift healed

Colombo. — With the prospect of general elections or a presidential election this year, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike and her son, Mr Anura Bandaranaike, resolved their differences and Mrs Bandaranaike said: "Henceforth the Sri Lanka Freedom Party will be one and indivisible under my leadership."

Liberia's security chief dismissed

Monrovia. — Major-General Samuel Doe, the Liberian head of state, has dismissed the director of the Special Security Service and a senior government accountant for the alleged embezzlement of public funds. The Liberian leader, who is also the army commander-in-chief of the super-vise security service,

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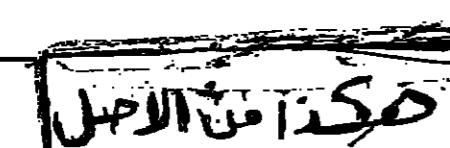
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Khmers slip away as Vietnamese advance

From David Watts

Singapore, March 21

The Vietnamese Army has occupied two of the principle nationalist resistance villages in Cambodia, as its dry season offensive approaches a climax.

After the Soviet invasions of Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the rest of the world had gradually come to accept the situation in these countries as normal, he told a radio interviewer. But with Afghanistan, the world must continually bear in mind that the situation was unacceptable and do what it could to turn it round.

During the interview on the BBC radio programme *The World This Weekend*, Lord Carrington conceded that Western diplomatic pressure on the Soviet Union in the wake of the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan had not had the desired effect of forcing a withdrawal of its armed forces. Some 90,000 Soviet troops remained in the

United Nations, where 116 countries had condemned the

Soviet intervention, had acted as a brake on the Soviet Union in Poland. The Western proposal to ask for a Soviet withdrawal and designate Afghanistan as neutral territory remained on the table, he said.

He said he hoped that a combination of continuing diplomatic pressures on the Soviet Union and the unflagging guerrilla war in Afghanistan would eventually force Moscow to change its mind. He pointed out that the Afghan insurgents were continuing to receive arms supplies although he declined to say which countries were providing them.

In Brussels, the need for political support for the people of Afghanistan was emphasized by Mr Gaston Thorn, president of the European Commission, in a statement to mark the first "Afghanistan Day". He said that all countries who subscribe to the principles on freedom and self-determination for the Afghan people should use their influence to

accuse the United States and

Pakistan of doing all they could to prevent a political settlement in Afghanistan.

Soviet reports from Kabul spoke of 100,000 demonstrators taking part in a protest meeting outside the American Embassy and quoted Afghan politicians and clergy condemning Afghanistan Day as outright support for counter-revolution.

According to Tass, President Bahram Karmal told a party conference that Washington expressed "continued concern for the Afghan people but this showed itself in the violation of international law, encouragement of terrorism, interference in the internal affairs of other countries and the attempt to aggravate tension in the region".

But he asserted that in spite of rebel attacks, important social and economic changes had been carried out since the 1978 revolution which brought the Marxists to power.

Infiltrators blamed for riots in Jakarta

From Our Correspondent, Jakarta, March 21

Admiral Sudomo, the Indonesian head of security, today blamed the pro-Government Golcar Party for lack of security at a rally on Thursday which erupted into violence and arson leaving at least 60 people injured and scores of cars burning. But he said the general election campaign would not be affected.

Admiral Sudomo, giving his first briefing to the foreign press since the riots, said that the authorities had discovered that a group of about 100 Muslim Party supporters had infiltrated the rally in Banteng Square, Central Jakarta, carrying stones and wearing Golcar tee-shirts.

However, even after interrogation of the 240 arrested, some of them school children, the people who started the riot had not yet been identified.

"Golcar took no security measures at all," Admiral Sudomo said. "The PPP (Moslem Development Party) was the only party that was peaceful." Thursday's riot was a small wave in a big ocean and what happened in Jakarta last year carried Jakarta throughout Indonesia.

He continued to deny reports of deaths during the rioting, claiming that such reports were "rumours spread for political purposes".

Admiral Sudomo said the infiltrators were from Jakarta, not outside the city, and that they were Muslim Party supporters, not members of the Muslim Party which last year carried Jakarta in the elections. The intent he said was to "destabilize the Government".

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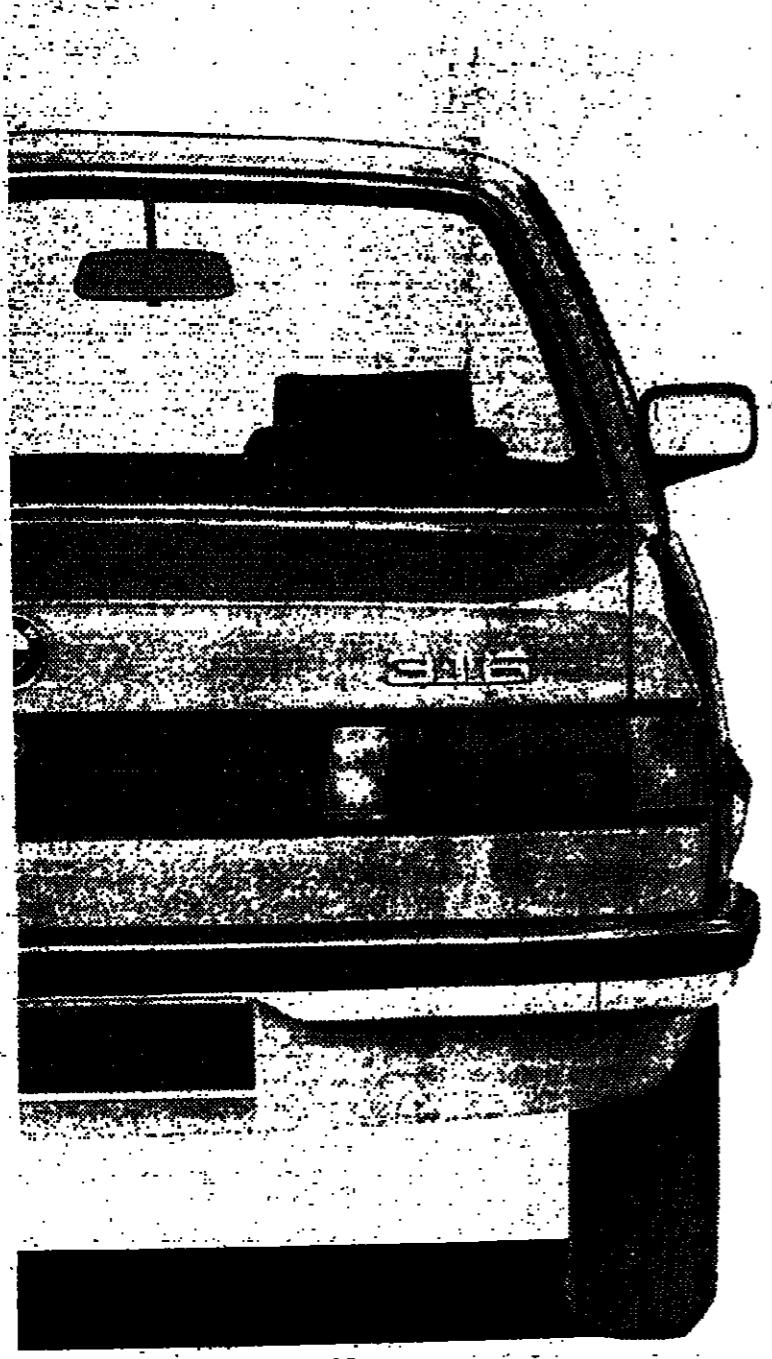
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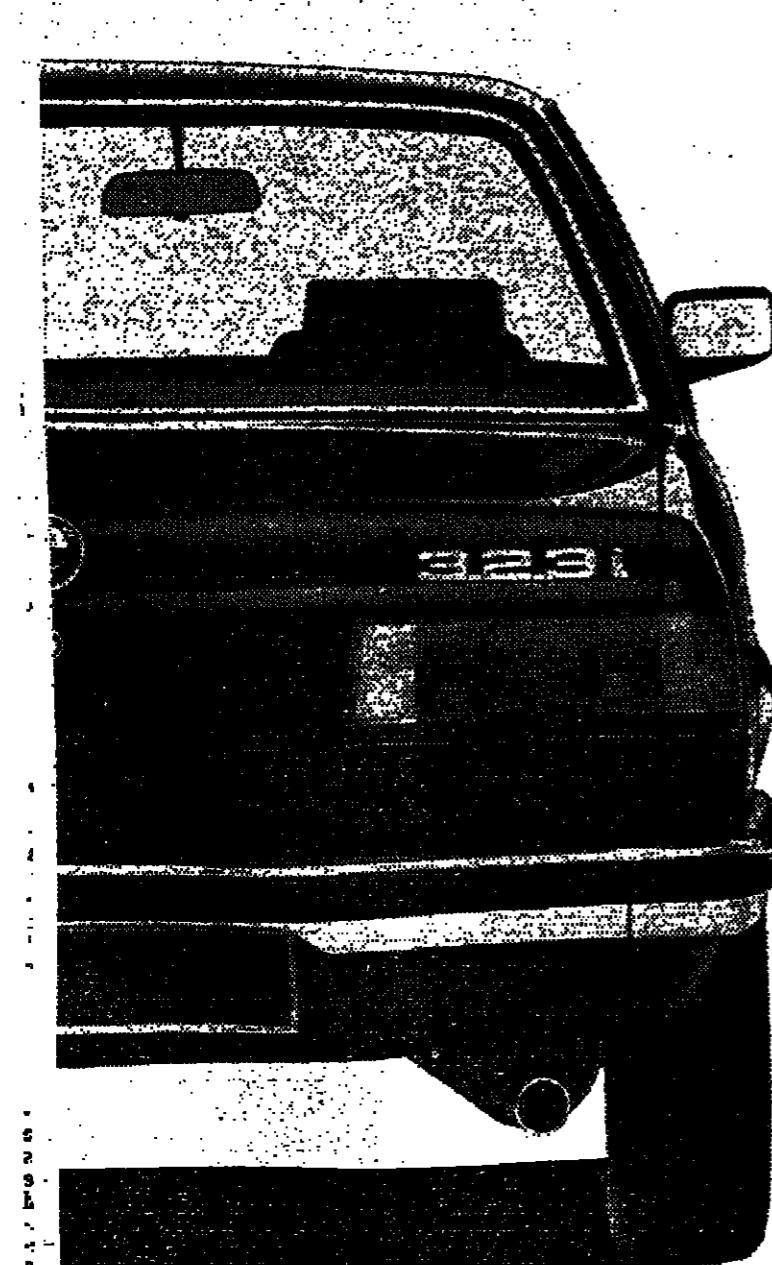
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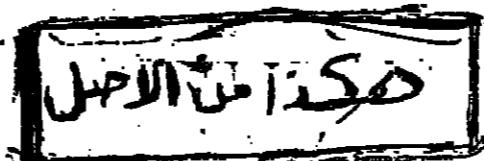
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Opera Lyrical graces

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Logan Hall/Radio 3

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Central government priority provides guarantees at variable interest rates for going rate on medium-term securities. There does exist in the policy for controlling supply — a matter of finance for these loans diverged from other uses, consumer credit, and, therefore, inflationary ordering.

It is a problem that in the prospective state of the economy, a responsible course would be hard put to advise to take on a significant debt at current interest rates for more modest debt, the scheme could for students or parents a full source of topping up their grants, in any way, were there is a controversy over consumer credit, and, therefore, inflationary ordering.



P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

MR PRIOR'S THROW

Politics for Mr Prior is the art of the impossible, in his Ulster period anyway. For eight years the politicians of the province have demonstrated by word and deed that they cannot meet across the loyalty gap to engage in or sustain institutions of devolved government. All, except for the integrationist school in the Unionist Party, want powers to be restored to the province, but all want the restoration on their own terms and all would prefer not to have it at all than to have it otherwise.

From that experience Mr Charles Haughey among others draws the conclusion that the province is not a "viable" political entity, and that it can be rendered viable only if it is reconstituted on a pan-Irish basis. Successive secretaries of state for Northern Ireland, who actually bear responsibility for the government of the province and the avoidance of civil war, have drawn from the same experience the different conclusion that, undaunted by their predecessors' failures, they must try again.

And so Mr Prior is found six months into his job poised to lay on the table, ingeniously presented and vainly disguised, the very dish that has been so frequently refused. The reason for this perseverance is multiple. It includes the following judgments: that the province is administratively (as distinct from politically), ripe for devolution because of its habits, situation and peculiarities; that Englishmen, however well-intentioned, are not

qualified to govern the place in detail; that the politicians there must be given something constructive to do if their influence is to be other than malign; that the events of the past fifteen years (not to say 400 years) dictate that if there are to be devolved institutions they must be such as to allow republican representatives to participate in the exercise of power; that it is needed, for both home and foreign consumption, to give his initiative a political momentum that can hardly now simply be cancelled.

The Cabinet has yet to approve the scheme in its final form and Conservative members of Parliament have to make it possible to proceed, but it would be unwise of either to pull out the plug. Of course, an assembly whose members have nothing much to do except berate the administration and insult each other (which must be accounted the most likely outcome) would tend to political mischief. But it cannot be said with certainty that Mr Prior's rolling devolution with its enticements of office will not roll. The benefits to the province would be considerable if it did. The preliminary processes of establishing an assembly afford time for security forces to tighten their squeeze on the Provisional IRA. Expectations on that front are better kept cold, but there is reason to think that information from outside and informers from within are weakening the IRA's structure and morale.

Decisive evidence of that would do more than anything else to improve political prospects in the province.

PRESENTING INDIA TODAY

The story has it that in the nineteen fifties, when the French began divesting themselves of their Indo-China territories, Mr Nehru refused to recognize Cambodia; it was not truly independent, he claimed, perceiving French apron-strings still dangling behind. But calling in at Phnom Penh after a visit to Peking he was taken for a drive through the Cambodian countryside. During his tour he noted with growing pleasure in the traces of Cambodia's ancient civilization, unmistakable visual evidence of the Hindu cultural tide that had swept across the region in the distant past. That tide had long ago receded but the traditions were still alive. Thus the history that Mr Nehru knew well enough had been brought to life. Returning to New Delhi he promptly recognized the government in Phnom Penh.

Such occasions of culture directly influencing politics may be rare, either springing from personal impulse or from a scarcely conscious sentiment that has taken shape over decades. There is no evidence, for example, that the nineteenth century fashion for Japanese art and artifacts made Europeans any better aware of the significant changes then in progress following the Meiji resto-

ration. The re-evaluation of Chinese art, particularly Chinese painting, sixty years ago in Britain led to no better understanding or even interest in the revolutionary outlook then stirring in China. Which is to say, perhaps, that past and present occupy separate compartments quite apart from the division between politics and culture.

Nevertheless, sentiment runs more smoothly with culture, once a reputation is acquired. Last year Japan was very much put on the map in Britain with a major art exhibition buttressed by many smaller, artistic or informative exhibits. This evening at the Royal Festival Hall two Prime Ministers, Mrs Gandhi and Mrs Thatcher, will attend a concert that inaugurates the Festival of India, a considerable enterprise over several months in which art, music and sculpture of all ages, together with some passages of India seen through western eyes in the early days of British rule, will be presented to the British public. Half of that public has no direct memory of the era of British rule and even those who have such memories or were associated with that rule never had such a conspectus of India as the Festival aims to present.

The aftermath of that era through the fifties and sixties gave to an older generation in

world may be blown up by Saturday. Poor Harold (Macmillan) — he's on the phone to Washington every hour on the hour!

Over a period of a few years I remember Rab's calm being only once visibly disturbed. On arriving in his room I realized that he was uncharacteristically edgy, and that the mandarin's mask had slipped. He was, at the time, among much else, Home Secretary, or, as he sometimes insisted on adding with historic punctilio, "the First Secretary of State". What unimaginable international crisis could explain his discomfiture? "I shall not sleep tonight", he confessed. "By 9am tomorrow I have to recommend for or against a reprieve for a murderer. I hate it. But how can the judges be asked to apply the law we make if Home Secretaries are to defeat them by advising a royal pardon?" You abolish the death sentence or you use it.

In my years of pupillage Mr Macmillan and Mr Heath were making their first attempt to carry Britain into the EEC. Rab, although chairman of the Cabinet steering committee never concealed his profound scepticism. He was not sceptical like Mr Macmillan, who thought General de Gaulle would in the end say no. He was sceptical out of a sense of Conservative Party history. "It is," he said, "Peel and the Corn Laws all over again, and it can split the Conservative Party." Rab was wrong; it did not.

It may be said of Rab that he could be disloyal to colleagues partly because he could never resist a good encoded joke, but he could never commit any disloyalty to a party that did not hesitate to be disloyal to him. I remember the typically cynical account he gave of Peter Thorneycroft's resignation as Chancellor of the Exchequer in 1958: "Peter asked, you know, for cuts of £150 million, and we gave him

all but £50 million. We were astonished when he resigned. After all, he has no money and needs the salary." Three cheers for Peter Thorneycroft.

My pupillage to Rab from which I draw continuing benefits, ended on a Friday night in October 1963. That day the Earl of Home had been to Buckingham Palace to be asked by the Queen if he could form a government, and he said he would try. Everything depended on Rab, who was a heavy cold and was staying at St Ermin's Hotel while his Smith Square house was redecorated. Seven ministers, including some of the strongest in the Cabinet, awaited his decision. He had only to stand firm.

At 10pm, with the first edition of *The Times* rolling, I telephoned to St Ermin's and was put through to the Butler suite. Geoffrey Lloyd answered, and said ominously that Rab had been insisting to Edward Boyle that he must not refuse to serve under Home. Then Rab came to the telephone, and in a croaky voice

answered the question I put to him: "Rab, if you were writing for breakfast time tomorrow what would you say about your intentions?" He replied: "I should write: 'Mr R. A. Butler will arrive at 10 Downing Street tomorrow morning and will tell Lord Home that he is willing to serve'."

Once again Rab had put his party's interests first, and already his ingenuity had prepared for public consumption that delicious epigram that "I may not have been Pope, but I am something to have been Cardinal". None may doubt that he was one of the biggest and ablest politicians of his generation, and the most formative influence on his party for 20 years, an influence that continues to this day; but we who admired him must say he did not deserve the leadership he would not kill to serve.

The article also stated that "the new channel will cost an estimated £20m to run...." If that low figure was a reality, those of us who fought hard for proper funding for S4C would have failed. In these days of high costs, £20m per year would cover some 10 to 12 hours per week of

David Wood

The man with so much to teach

Two facts dictate that my theme this week should be Rab Butler. First, influenza prevented my adding a little lettering to his memorial when he died. Secondly, this is the last but one column I shall write before I formally retire, and there will be no other opportunity to give an account of what used to pass between the two of us, the statesman and the political reporter, with no third party present, at times when Rab held five or six of the most powerful posts of the Conservative government and the Conservative Party. It is now or never.

None of the obituarists seems to me to have made enough of Rab's role as a born teacher of the practical political arts, so that he was never without a kindergarten of younger men chosen for their high promise. When you came under his spell it was natural to become *in statu pupillari*. He had been a figure in Commons politics so long, since my schooldays, that I had so much to learn. Rab made himself my tutor, and we met in his room behind the Chair, usually on Wednesdays near midnight.

He would be sitting in a spacious chair behind a large table, looking like a mandarin. He might be writing with a pencil held awkwardly between the index and second finger, or, if he were thinking, he had a displeasing habit of pushing the pencil into a nostril. His pervasive calm reduced all crises and frenzies to proportion. On the Wednesday of Cuba week, his matter of fact greeting ran: "My dear Wood, the

New obstacle to citizenship

From Mrs Ann Dummett

Sir, The Home Office has recently announced that the fees for obtaining citizenship are to be raised on April 1 to £200 for naturalisation and discretionary registration, and to £70 for registration by entitlement. Whether the intention is to raise revenue or to slow down applications the effect will undoubtedly be an arbitrary denial of citizenship to thousands of people who wish to apply and who can satisfy all the conditions as to length of residence, good character and future intentions that the Home Office may require.

A fee of £200 is unquestionably beyond the means of anyone unemployed or on low pay. The father of family, wishing to apply for citizenship for his wife and children, the same £200 would have to be paid on £300 nearly £500 if his child had just turned 18. Even the £70 fee is impossible for someone living on social security, and the Supplementary Benefits Commission has made clear that it will not pay citizenship fees.

It should be remembered that thousands of aliens and Commonwealth citizens now living here have spent the greater part of their working lives here, paying taxes and National Insurance and have only recently become unemployed in the recession through no fault of their own.

The £70 fee applies to registration of Commonwealth citizens who have lived here continuously since before 1973 and were legally settled here then, and to wives, or former wives, of British men. The Home Secretary cannot refuse an applicant in these categories who satisfies the statutory requirements. But imposing an impossible charge is, in effect, to deny a statutory entitlement. What is at issue is a legal right.

Yours sincerely,
ANN DUMMETT,
Joint Council for the Welfare of Immigrants,
44 Theobalds Road, WC1.

March 18.

Stubbs appeal

From Mr Julian Pritchard

Sir, May I be allowed to comment on the appeal just launched by the Fitzwilliam Museum for funds to buy a painting by Stubbs as reported by you (March 16)?

Stubbs, like Canaletto, is a painter so admired in this country that one feels bold to question his reputation as an artist, yet I think it should be questioned. Undoubtedly he was a great celebrator of the horse; his anatomical knowledge of it is well known. But a horse does not make a painting and even in a newspaper reproduction this is sufficiently clear in the case of "Gimcrack with John Pratt up on Newmarket Heath".

Whatever qualifies a painting has, it surely stands or falls on its composition, and Stubbs can be very inept; for example, the horse's rump just touches the line of the wall, the underside of its belly just breaks the top of a distant tree, in neither case for any obvious expressive reason.

The horse has the effect of a montage introduced, like the building, into a landscape that exists on separate terms. It needs little of an artist's eye to see that the whole picture needs "pulling together". Anatomist that he was, he knew the parts of things more than he knew how to coordinate them.

According to the state of the market, £750,000 may be a fair price; but with these compositional faults, which I think are demonstrable and serious, can the painting properly be described as a "great masterpiece" and is it worth the sum required to place it in what is not an equestrian museum, but a museum of art? A work whose purchase requires a public appeal must be very good indeed. If art museums are to be temples of excellence it is enough that it fills a gap in the collection by representing a strand of English painting?

Yours faithfully,
JULIAN PRITCHARD,
25 Clarendon Flats,
Balderstone Street, W1.

March 16.

Legal precedence

From Mr Michael Scott

Sir, I think the Hon. Sir Charles Maccaskill, KBE, may claim to hold the record for the Commonwealth since he holds office as a Judge of the Fiji Court of Appeal at the age of 90.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL SCOTT,
Chief Registrar,
Supreme Court,
Government Buildings,
Suva, Fiji.

March 10.

Welsh television

From Mr R. W. Wordley

Sir, In his excellent article published on February 22, Tim Jones may have been inadvertently misunderstood by his readers on two matters of importance — first, that viewing figures to Sianel Pedwar Cymru (S4C) in Wales should be a yardstick to judge the success of a television service designed to sustain a cultural heritage. Surely such statistics are inappropriate in this context.

Once again Rab had put his party's interests first, and already his ingenuity had prepared for public consumption that delicious epigram that "I may not have been Pope, but I am something to have been Cardinal". None may doubt that he was one of the biggest and ablest politicians of his generation, and the most formative influence on his party for 20 years, an influence that continues to this day; but we who admired him must say he did not deserve the leadership he would not kill to serve.

The article also stated that "the new channel will cost an estimated £20m to run...."

If that low figure was a reality, those of us who fought hard for proper funding for S4C would have failed. In these days of high costs, £20m per year would cover some 10 to 12 hours per week of

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the Editor

Britain's role in European defence

From Sir Edward Peck

Sir, In today's issue (March 19), Sir Bernard Burrows correctly draws attention to the inadequacy of Western European Union (WEU) as an institutional framework for strengthening European defence policy. One of his (and my) former Nato colleagues once wittily described the WEU as "an institution without an effort", whereas the Eurogroup of Nato (which draws on an existing staff) is "an effort without an institution". Indeed, since its inception in 1968, the Eurogroup has done good work in harmonizing European logistics, equipment procurement and similar matters within Nato. French institutional reluctance to participate has been largely overcome, at least in the field of arms procurement, by the formation of the Independent European Programme Group.

None the less the Eurogroup has always recognized — and any body concerning itself in future with European defence policy must do likewise — that there can be no sense in having two strategies within one alliance and that for the measurable future Europe is incapable of defending itself against the Soviet Union without the essential and ungrudging assistance of the United States, in particular the nuclear weapons.

It should be remembered that thousands of aliens and Commonwealth citizens now living here have spent the greater part of their working lives here, paying taxes and National Insurance and have only recently become unemployed in the recession through no fault of their own.

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Bronze Age finds at Dover

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SOCIAL NEWS

Princess Alexandra, as vice-president of the British Red Cross Society, will be present at a meeting of the society's council at St George's Crescent, London, on April 8.

The Duchess of Kent, as Patron of the Samaritans, will attend a reception at the deanery, Westminster Abbey, on April 27.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir John Pennycuick will be held at the Temple Church at 4.45 pm today.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr E. C. S. Macpherson and the Hon. L. A. Baring

The engagement is announced between Ewen, elder son of Mr G. P. S. Macpherson, and of the Old Rectory, Aston Sandford, Buckinghamshire, and Laura, eldest daughter of Lord and Lady Northbrook, of East Stratton House, East Stratton, Hampshire.

Mr I. M. C. Brown and Miss S. J. Moore

The engagement is announced between Ian, eldest son of Dr and Mrs K. A. C. Brown, of East Molesey, Surrey, and Sarah Jane, eldest daughter of Mr and Mrs Robert Moore, of Cranleigh, Surrey.

Captain H. A. R. Hancock, R Signals, and Miss S. B. McCann

The engagement is announced between Hugh, only son of Major-General and Mrs M. S. Hancock, and Susie, youngest daughter of Dr and Mrs D. G. McCann.

Mr C. O'Brien and Miss V. Rouse

The engagement is announced between Conor, only son of Mr and Mrs Murrough O'Brien, of Connaught Square, London W2, and Vivian, younger daughter of Colonel Adrian Rouse, of Pembroke Square, London W8, and Mrs F. H. Osborne, of Great Shelford, Cambridge.

Mr M. A. Price and Miss S. A. Campbell

The engagement is announced between Michael, son of Mr and Mrs T. E. Price, of Edwalton, Nottinghamshire, and Shona, daughter of Mr and Mrs D. N. Campbell, of Talleron, Nottinghamshire.

Mr P. D. Strawbridge and Miss D. A. Benton

The engagement is announced between Peter David, youngest son of Dr and Mrs David J. Strawbridge, of Caversham, Reading, and Deirdre Anne, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Dennis R. Beton, of Chelsea.

Mr D. J. Vincent and Miss C. J. Wass

The engagement is announced between David James, son of Mr and Mrs John Vincent, of Merton Park, London SW11, and Sarah, daughter of Mr and Mrs Peter Wass, of The Old Mill, Hailstock, Yeovil, Somerset.

Dinners

Inter-Parliamentary Union Mr John Page, MP, chairman of the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union, was host at a dinner held at the Athenaeum Hotel yesterday in honour of a parliamentary delegation from Algeria, led by Mr Mohamed Abdala, President of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mrs Stafford Northcott The High Sheriff of Staffordshire and Mrs Stafford Northcott gave a dinner in honour of the Apostolic Pro-Nuncio at Bisham Hall, Stafford, on Saturday. The Bishop of Lichfield and Mrs Skelton, the Right Rev Francis Thomas, Vicar-General of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Lord and Lady Stafford, the Hon Sir Hugh Poynter, MP, and Pamela Lady Wolsey were among others present.

Royal College of Surgeons of England

It was announced at an ordinary Meeting of the council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England, with the president, Sir Alan Parkes, in the chair, that the following surgeons have accepted election to the honorary fellowship of the college:

Everett Koop, paediatric surgeon, formerly of Philadelphia, and Surgeon-General, United States, Constantinos Constantopoulos, professor of the University of Athens, Hellenic Prizes were awarded to Dr C. A. East of Charing Cross Hospital, Dr J. S. Gani, of Sheffield University, Dr N. J. M. London, of Birmingham University, Dr M. D. Stringer, of Guy's Hospital, and Dr R. O. El Naggar, of Ain Shams University, Cairo.

of the Samaritans, will attend a reception at the deanery, Westminster Abbey, on April 27.

A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir John Pennycuick will be held at the Temple Church at 4.45 pm today.

Mr D. J. Butchart and Miss S. E. Smith

The engagement is announced between David, son of Mr. J. D. Butchart, of Park, and Mrs. A. M. Butchart of Kinnelwood, and Susie, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Smith, of Grimsby.

Marriages

Mr J. H. Judd and Lady Zinnia Pollock

The marriage has taken place in London between Mr. Jamie Judd and Lady Zinnia Pollock, widow of Mr. John Pollock.

The Rev. J. A. Boyd and Miss A. M. Constantine

The marriage took place on Saturday in New York United States, of the Hon. Jonathan Boyd, elder son of Denise Lady Kilmarnock, of the late Lord Kilmarnock, SW1, and the late Lord Kilmarnock, and Miss Annette Constantine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs. Joe Constantine, of Cotesmore Gardens, London, W8.

Mr J. T. J. McGaw and Miss A. J. G. Lynch

The marriage took place on March 20 at the Church of St Borophius without Bishopsgate between Mr. John McGaw, son of Lieutenant-Colonel and Mrs. McGaw, of St Helier, Jersey, Chantal, Island of Jersey, and Amanda Lynch, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Lynch, of Lansdowne Rise, London, W11. Canon Edwin Young officiated, assisted by the Rev. Alan Tanner. A reception was held at Armoni House.

Mr W. L. Roxburgh and Mrs C. E. Williams

The marriage took place in London on March 19, 1982, between Mr. William Roxburgh and Mrs. Caroline Williams.

Colonel M. K. Trofaier and Miss M. P. Jones

The marriage took place on Monday, February 22, at St James's Church, Spanish Place, between Colonel Maximilian Karl Trofaier, of the Austrian Embassy, London, and Miss Maria Patricia Jones, of Cambridge Square, London, W2. Major Frederick Miller, Major George Tomlinson, and Pater Felix Leuschner officiated. Father James Pink, Chaplain at Holloway Prison, was in the sanctuary.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, wore a gown of ivory silk, decorated with a headress of diamonds and pearls. She carried an eighteenth-century ivory fan and a bouquet of white roses, orchids and jasmin. Morgan Heaton-Armstrong, Emma, Laura and Sarah Grayde, Charlotte, Anna, Sarah and Sophie, English, and Alexander and Roland Trofaier von Gebert was best man. A reception was held at the Naval and Military Club.

Lord Alport, 70; Air Marshal Sir Denis Crowley-Milling, 63; the Right Rev Dr E. B. Henderson, 72; Admiral of the Fleet Sir Caspar John, 79; Dr H. Kay, 63; Sir William Lindsay, 75; Mr Andrew Lloyd Webber, 34; Lady (Frederick) Greville, 54; Mr L. G. Laming, 52; Mr Peter Rogers, 65; Mr Stephen Sonnenfeld, 52; Lord Stokes, 68; Mr Leslie Thomas, 51.

WRAC commissions

The following officers have completed a WRAC officer training course at the Women's Army Corps College, Catterick, the Right Rev Francis Thomas, Vicar-General of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, Lord and Lady Stafford, the Hon Sir Hugh Poynter, MP, and Pamela Lady Wolsey were among others present.

Latest appointments

Latest appointments include: Mr A. O. Russell Vick, QC, to the Royal Courts of Justice, Judge assigned to the South Eastern Circuit.

Moreover... Miles Kington

The slow lane of the M4 between exits 7 and 9 is temporarily closed to allow practice sessions by the British Olympic long-distance roller-skating team.

Drivers proceeding east on the M2 towards Dover are asked not to use the hard shoulder between Chatham and Sittingbourne, as it is under cultivation by the police for mushrooms.

The roadworks which have been on the M1 near Newport Pagnell since 1973 have now been removed after being purchased by Sir Roy Strong for his new exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum, "Up the M1".

Race crosswinds may be expected between juggernauts 21 and 22 on the M6 in Cumbria.

A new half-mile stretch of the A12 (M) is to be opened tomorrow by the Under-Secretary of State for Motorways and closed for repairs again on Thursday.

Telephones along the M4 in Wales are temporarily out of action during conversion for Welsh-speaking use only, postmen will continue to take letters in both languages.

Drivers planning to go to Manchester via the M1 and M56 are advised instead to take the M13 to York and then drive on to Scarborough or, indeed, to go

Why Free Church leaders choose obscurity

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Moderators of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland are expected to dress in distinctive, old-fashioned garb and are allowed to call themselves the Right Reverend. But as soon as they have served their year in office, they are "returned to the ranks" because of the Scottish disease for prelacy", as Professor Thomas Torrance once put it in his own year as Moderator.

The same distaste applies in the English nonconformist tradition, where the Free Churches also elect their head man (or occasionally, woman) for a year at a time. Not surprisingly, very few moderators, presidents, or chairmen ever become household names even in God-fearing households. The best known Free church in Britain, apart from rare cases like Lord Soper, tend to be the ecclesiastical executives, general secretaries or secretaries general.

So when Cardinal Basil Hume addresses the Free Church Federal Council in Newcastle on Wednesday he will be far and away the most famous man in the room, even if the combined strength of nonconformity in

England is rather in excess of the Roman Catholic population. In the age of mass communication, prelacy wins hands down.

The more prelatial the prelate, the bigger the story; and it is apt that the cardinal's subject will be the visit of Pope John Paul II, the ultimate prelate, who can command more column inches in a day than the Free Church Federal Council has achieved in its entire 86 years.

Prelacy is not only about fame but also about power, a further reason for the distaste of dissenters, no doubt, but a man whose statements of opinion are likely to be translated into policy and subsequently into action is bound to steal the spotlight of public attention from one who is only a shadow and who will not yet be back in the audience, exhorted by his successor.

Such factors as these explain the relative obscurity of a body like the Free Church Federal Council, and may extend to cover the general condition of the English Free Church scene. Prelacy gives a church a high media profile, a sense of participating in the visible flow of public affairs, for well known names get their sayings reported: committees and chairmen do not.

The great preachers of the English dissenting tradition were scrupulous in pursuit of

Passion and deceit among the animals

By Tony Samstag

An ingenious scheme to inject a little drama into the worthy cause of conservation has come up trumps. The World Wildlife Fund's play-writing competition, announced late last year, has drawn no fewer than 138 entries, including six musicals, several complete with tape cassettes on which assortments of birds, beasts, hum and thump through the score.

Winners of prizes for the most imaginative and original plays on conservation and the environment are to be announced towards the end of the month. At least two of the winning plays are to be produced by the Young Vic, and a number may be published.

The plays, submitted under pseudonyms, have come from Hong Kong, the United States and Ireland, as well as Britain. The titles alone are evocative. Among the front runners are *The Last of the Lollards*, *Giant Slurp's Dilemma*, *SSssnakes*, *Noah's Mountain*, and *Nice Girls, Dirty Rats*.

The latter, a usical in the Rice-Webber mould, tells the story of an inner-city conflict between conservationists (the Nice Girls) and polluters (Dirty Rats). The children of the leaders of the two groups fall in love, of course.

The readers' notes observe, among other things, that Nice Girls may not be the easiest of productions to stage because of the taxis, buses and Underground trains that loom almost as large as the characters.

SSssnakes is described by the readers, intriguingly, as a tale of "passion and deceit among the snake traders" in the American desert.

The judges have been pleasantly surprised at the high quality of the entries - fewer than 50 have been bad enough to reject out of hand - although unimpressed by the predictability of several broad categories of plot devices: animals acting like humans (and vice versa), the aftermath of nuclear Armageddon, nature in the suburban back garden, serenizing birds.

There has been an unexpected preoccupation with urban problems, however, including one play about rioting in Brixton, which, it is fervently hoped, is not prophetic of the summer.

Latest wills

Mr Kenneth William George Brookes Howell, of Tunbridge Wells, a Lloyd's underwriter, left estate valued at £1,344,499 net. Among many charitable bequests was £20,000 to the Rushall Lodge, Tunbridge Wells, Tunbridge Wells Association.

Other estates include (net, before tax paid):

Albery, Lady, Stoke Abbott, Dorset, widow of Sir Bronson Albery, £42,996

Barman, Mr. Leonard Denis, of Finchley, London, £262,493

Bates, Dr Kenneth Edwin of Worthing, £1,500

Hey, Colonel Walter Lancaster of Wetherby, £38,035

Pryor, Mrs Elsie, of Newmarket, £348,359

OBITUARY

MISS MARJORIE POLLARD

Influential figure in hockey

Miss Marjorie Pollard, OBE, who died yesterday at the age of 81, was a great sportswoman of pre-war years.

She was the England women's cricket captain, and played tennis and golf at county standard, but was perhaps best known for her prowess at hockey over a long period. She played for England from 1921 to 1923 and from 1931 to 1933. In 1922 she scored all 13 goals against Wales, all five against Scotland, all eight against Germany and seven of the eight against Ireland. Her fame was worldwide.

In 1921 she paid her hockey club's subscription to the county association in order that she could attend county trials and she was selected for England the same year. She was the headmistress of a small infants school and in the log book on a number of occasions is written: "School closed, headteacher playing hockey for England".

It was Miss Pollard with the late Sir Godfrey Russell Vick who brought women's hockey to Wembley Stadium and she edited *Hockey Field*, the only women's hockey magazine in the British Isles, from 1945 to 1970. Well known as a sports journalist, she also wrote for *The Morning Post*, *The Times*, *The Observer* and *The Guardian*.

She was a former acting president of the All England Women's Hockey Association and a former president of the Midland Women's Hockey Association for a great many years.

She also took a leading part in local government in her area and was also a JP. She was appointed OBE in 1965 for her work for sport and local government.

By way of relaxation she had a pedigree herd of Jacob sheep.

CAPTAIN SIR PHILIP ROSE

Captain Sir Philip Rose, Bt, died on March 14 at the age of 76. He was born on March 16, 1903, the son of Captain Philip Vivian Rose, who died in 1917 of wounds received in action, and educated at Harrow. He succeeded to the title on the death of his father Sir Philip Rose, second baronet, in 1919. He saw military service in the Second World War.

He married in 1927 Joan, younger daughter of Dr Martin Richardson. They had one son, who was killed in an aircraft accident in 1943, and two daughters. He is succeeded by his cousin, Mr David Lancaster Rose.

MR REGINALD KILBEY

Mr Reginald Kilbey, the cellist, who died on March 14 in an Uxbridge Hospital, will be remembered by many as one of the Max Jaffa trio, consisting of Max Jaffa, violinist, Jack Byfield, who played the piano and Kilbey. Earlier he played with the group led by the violinist Albert Sandler whose many broadcasts from the Grand Hotel, Eastbourne were immensely popular. Sandler died in 1948.

MR D. N. HINCKLEY

Mr Douglas Neville Hinckley, joint chief executive of the Hinckley group of companies, died on March 2, at the age of 48, from injuries sustained as a result of an accident.

Hinckley, an internationally known figure in the refractories industry, was born in Sheffield, educated at Birkdale and the Leys School, Cambridge, and was commissioned into the Royal Artillery during national service.

He was a director of Brown, Shipley and Co Ltd, was an active member of the Conservative Party in South Yorkshire, and stood as a candidate in the Rotherham by-election of 1974 and the general election of 1979.

A joint member of the Meynell and South Staffordshire Hunt, he was a keen shot and field sportsman. He had for many years been a member of the Institute of Directors, an associate member of the Institute of British Foundrymen and a council member of the Refractories Association of Great Britain.

LT-GEN ROMAN SAVOCHKIN

Lieutenant General Roman Savochkin, chief of headquarters and deputy commander of Soviet forces in the Leningrad military district, has died at the age of 51, the Soviet Army newspaper *Red Star* reported.

Savochkin joined the army in 1949 when he enrolled in a provincial military academy. Upon graduation he took command of a tank battalion. In 1979 he passed out from the Soviet armed forces general headquarters military academy and became deputy commander of the Leningrad forces a year ago.

A pair of flamingos, which are about to find a new home today when Christie's South Kensington put up for auction 32 ornithological cases from the Hart/Hall collection, which is being sold by Stowe School.

Royal engagements

The following engagements for the end of May have been announced by Buckingham Palace:

22. Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips attend final of Football Association Challenge Cup competition at Wembley Stadium. The Prince of Wales, as honorary fellow of institution of Civil Engineers, attends reception of the Association of Consulting Engineers at the Royal Automobile Club, Grosvenor Gardens, London.

23. The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, opens Kielder Reservoir, the Prince of Wales, as president, attends annual general meeting of the Wildfowl Trust at Ambridge, Gloucestershire. The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, the Parachute Regiment, presents colours to 15th (Scottish Volunteer) Battalion at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh.

26. The Queen, accompanied by the Duke of Edinburgh, opens Kielder Reservoir, the Prince of Wales, as president, attends annual general meeting of the Wildfowl Trust at Ambridge, Gloucestershire. The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, the Parachute Regiment, presents colours to 15th (Scottish Volunteer) Battalion at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh.

28. The Queen receives Pope John Paul II. The Prince of Wales, Colonel-in-Chief, the Parachute Regiment, presents colours to 15th (Scottish Volunteer) Battalion at Redford Barracks, Edinburgh.

31. Princess Anne attends open day to celebrate silver jubilee of PHAB at Witon House, Wiltshire.

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BUSINESS NEWS

ITALY

Relief as fifth oil chief is named

The appointment of Signor Enrico Gandolfi as ENI's fifth head in three years has relieved the tension that was paralysing the management of Italy's state-owned oil corporation. But Signor Gandolfi has been put in as special government commissioner on oil for six months and unless his term is extended, he will be able to do little more than lay the foundations for recovery.

ENI, according to a member of the government, is losing 5,000m lire (£2m) a day, but the immediate cause for the dismissal of Signor Alberto Grandi, chairman, was political. As a Christian Democrat, he fell victim to the coalition parties' logic whereby the giant corporation ENI should be headed by a Christian Democrat, ENI by a Socialist, and the smaller EFIN by a Social Democrat.

Signor Grandi became involved in public controversy with Signor Gianni de Michelis, the Socialist Minister for state industry, who called on him to resign, and with ENI's Socialist vice-chairman, Signor Leonardo di Donna, who hoped to succeed him. In the end, the Socialists did not get all they

The case is not closed, however, because the minister intends to reform the whole public sector. The terms have expired of the other two corporations' chairman, Signor Pietro Sette (Christian Democrat) at INI and Signor Corrado Piacentino (Social Democrat) at EFIN.

Even if they are re-appointed, the chance is offered for a thorough shakeup, and the minister has circulated among the coalition parties a scheme for restructuring the three corporations.

Signor Gandolfi, aged 68, has been with ENI for 26 years, latterly as chairman of the SAIPEM subsidiary. He is a non-political figure, under whom SAIPEM has regularly reported profits and gained a world reputation in deep sea pipe laying.

At ENI, he faces several pressing problems. The government has to decide whether to approve an agreement concluded by ENI in January to take 180,000 million cubic metres of Soviet gas from the proposed Siberian pipeline.

Mindful of United States pressure, Rome has so far hesitated, but, even if American opposition appears to have softened, the coalition is divided between the Christian Democrats (in favour) and the Socialists and Social Democrats (against).

Negotiations have to be concluded with Algeria on the price of the methane to come through the Transmed pipeline.

On purely commercial grounds, the Italians are not in a hurry, the distribution network inside Italy is not yet ready. A report to the cabinet says gas supplies from existing domestic and foreign sources are enough to satisfy demand for at least two years.

With Saudi Arabia, ENI is seeking to resume direct purchases of oil from the state company Petromin. The Saudis suspended deliveries two years ago amid allegations of scandal over the destination of commission payments.

John Earle

Base Lending Rates

	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%	13%
ABN Bank	13%											
Barclays	13%											
BCCI	13%											
Consolidated Cds.	13%											
C. Hoare & Co.	*13%											
Lloyds Bank	13%											
Midland Bank	13%											
Nat Westminster	13%											
TSB	13%											
Williams & Glyn's	13%											

* 7 day deposit on sum of £10,000 up to £50,000 11% & £50,000 and over 11 1/2%.

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
27/28 Lovell Lane London EC3B 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

Capitalisation £000's	Company	Change in Price week	Gross DIVID.	%	P/E Fully Actual Taxed
1,283	Ass Brit Ind Cuds	129	+10.0	7.8	—
4,226	Airsprung Group	72	+4.2	11.6	16.0
12,159	Bardon Hill & Rhodes	45	+4.3	8.5	8.5
1,338	CCL 11% Conv Pref	199	+9.7	4.9	9.7
4,875	Deborah Services	107	+15.7	14.7	—
4,047	Frank Horsell	63	-2	6.0	9.5
11,702	Frederick Parker	127	-1	6.4	5.0
972	George Blair	81	+1	6.4	7.9
3,858	Ind Prec Castings	53	+1	—	7.9
2,040	Isl Conv Pref	99	+1	7.3	6.8
2,454	James Burrough	97	-1	7.0	7.2
15,734	James Jenkins	114	+1	8.7	7.6
2,530	Scrutons "A"	24	-5	31.3	12.6
3,180	Torday & Carlisle	64	+1	5.3	8.3
2,685	Twinklock Ord	150	-10.7	6.7	5.1
2,157	Twinklock 15% ULS	79	-	15.0	19.0
3,815	Unilock Holdings	20	-2	3.0	12.0
10,444	W. S. Alexander	79	+2	6.4	4.5
5,321	W. S. Young	20	-2	12.2	8.8



Gordon Borrie outside his home: "People won't argue — an unfortunate British trait"

OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING

Looking for a home-front breakthrough

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of the Office of Fair Trading, has decided that his concern to promote competition and improve the lot of the consumer will be focused this year on the householder.

The main initiative will be to get more done about shortcomings in home improvement work, from plumbing and plastering to rendering and re-painting.

It should strike a chord with many of Britain's 11.5 million owner occupiers and 9.5 million renters of properties, as it does with Mr Borrie. At his part-15th century converted Worcestershire farmhouse he recently had a wall blown down, been troubled with fuel-oil freeze-ups and had to have the roof fixed.

He has decided he must soon do something about the decided lean assumed by a chimney stack that could fall through the roof. At least when a radiator burst, the run of the old timbers directed the water away from the carpets and straight out of a window and into the garden.

"It's nice when you have a bit of that sort of luck, but for some people involved in home improvements luck need not strike all that often, judging from the complaints I get," says Mr Borrie.

There are already developments in which Mr Borrie has been involved that are of potential benefit to householders. Legislation affecting estate agents in May introduces a number of protective measures, with house purchasers' deposits having to go into a special account and a house seller having the legal right to know the basis of an agent's terms.

Mandatory scale fees for

some local newspapers being reluctant to take advertising from the property shops. The question is how far this might reflect a cosy arrangement between a local newspaper and the established estate agents in the locality.

Home improvements, on which Mr Borrie will produce a discussion paper today, was not an easy area for the Office of Fair Trading to

estate agents have already been scrapped, but Mr Borrie admits that while there are signs that estate agents are willing to negotiate on fees, particularly for high-priced properties, a lot depends on their customers pressing for the best deal.

"The trouble is that people won't argue — an unfortunate British trait", Mr Borrie says.

He is turning a sharp eye on nearly 20 restorative agreements between estate agents on a localized basis which deal among other things with valuation scales. Agents involved are being asked to drop them.

The Royal Institute of British Architects has agreed to drop its mandatory scales for fees although it remains to be seen how quickly competition actually breaks in.

The householder will have to prod, and I intend to urge him or her to do just that", Mr Borrie said.

He judges that competition is less likely to grow among architects than estate agents. Property shops, some with computerized lists, have emerged on the high streets in competition with the traditional estate agent, but Mr Borrie is alarmed that such lower-priced competition could be running into the description of cowboys — who care not to belong to anything."

That could mean taking legislative action, a far longer process than securing voluntary codes through trade associations, as Mr Borrie readily admits.

A particular worry is where household work is done that carries a guarantee of 15 years or more. This usually occurs with pest treatment as for woodworm, to the consumer.

Apart from anything else there is a drag anchor on any efforts made by either Mr Borrie or the traders to improve matters. How many householders, taking on a craftsman, will agree to pay cash on a "black economy" basis, with no contract or protection, in order to get a job done more cheaply?

Derek Harris

MARSHALL FIELD TAKEOVER

BAT needs to provide logic and lustre

Twice during the 1870's Marshall Field's first large department store was burnt to the ground, first in the great Chicago fire of 1871 and again six years later.

It was rebuilt in magnificence style with ornate clocks outside and architectural splendour within. The splendour of the architecture may not have faded, but the group's profit performance has.

Expansion outside its Chicago base and traditional department store business has spread management too thin, according to some analysts.

The figures produce a telling picture. In 1977 net earnings after tax were \$18.1m (£10m). In 1980 they were \$20.7m and in the third quarter of 1981 — the latest published — were down from \$6.5m in the comparable three months to \$4.3m. Sales per square foot have slipped and so has the speed with

which merchandise is turned over.

Marshall Field, once the fashion centre of Chicago, has, according to Mr Walter Loeb, retail analyst of Morgan Stanley, "lost a great deal of lustre". He believes that it failed to stay exciting to the buying public, allowing successful groups, including BAT's own Saks Fifth Avenue, Lord & Taylor and Neiman Marcus, to move in on its home territory.

Also, Mr Loeb believes, it indulged in "illogical expansion plans".

Since Mr Angelo Arena became president in 1977, coming from the position of chairman of Neiman Marcus, Marshall Field has tripled the number of its stores. Acquisitions have included the Breuners furniture chain.

Mr Arena successfully defeated a \$42-a-share offer from Carter Hawley Hale on anti-trust grounds shortly after he became president.

That new store, however, is successful and so is a branch in Houston, even if the rationale for having

outlets so far apart is not apparent.

Mr Stuart Robbins, of brokers Paine Webber, said that the Chicago market would be BAT's key to success. It would need to upgrade Field's sales and buying approach to beat the competition and that would involve much time and effort.

But Field has some very valuable properties throughout the country which could generate cash.

BAT would need to concentrate on the fashion designed clothes end of the market which had brought success to Bloomingdale's and Lord Taylor. Department stores could flourish in the United States, he said, but they needed to be exciting.

Analysts believe that the potential is there, but BAT will have its work cut out to achieve it.

Nicholas Hirst

MARKETS ROUND-UP

Wall Street checks downturn



The trend towards interest rates is helping bank shares — in particular those such as Commerzbank and Dresdner Bank that in past years made the mistake of lending long at low fixed rates without securing adequate refinancing. The sectors have also been boosted by some of the smaller regional banks reporting record profits for what was generally held to be an abysmal banking year.

Technology stocks, which have recently been depressed, led the rebound. Computer issues, drug, brokerage, defence, transportation, bank, utility, semiconductor and mining stocks shared in the advance although some rose by only a fraction.

That rally helped to reverse the slump that took the Dow average to a 22-month low of 795.85 only last Wednesday. A week ago it fell 9.99 points in the third largest volume of trading in history, 305.4m shares. Two weeks ago, it dropped 17.03 points as 328.8m shares changed hands, the second heaviest trading on record. Last week trading shrank to 243.3m shares.

Wall Street watches attributed the recovery to the fact that institutions had started to do some buying in order to cover themselves if the market began to extend its rise.

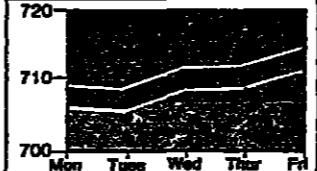
But opinion is sharply divided as to whether stock prices are likely to move up or down in the coming weeks.

Some analysts do not believe that there will be any sustained recovery until late spring or early summer and have been predicting that the Dow average will go as low as 725 or 750 before it ceases to drop.

But at least one investment bank has already forecast a significant upturn in stock prices within 30 days.

FRANKFURT

Springing back



After a week of lacklustre trading, the Frankfurt Stock Exchange sprang to life on Friday pushing the Commerzbank Index to a high for the year of 712.2.

But at least one investment bank has already forecast a significant upturn in stock prices within 30 days.

COMMODITIES

Doubts over new coffee agreement

Among the brave defenders of commodity agreements on these times none is chirpier than the proponents of the coffee pact. The coffee price has remained solidly above the floor indicator of 120 cents a pound for most of the present financial year (October 1 to September 30 in coffee's case), and the International Coffee Organization has been able to release more beans on to the market. The ICO claims a success.

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

INTER-CITY

PEOPLE

CARDIFF
In a class
of his own

"A" for effort for Fanthorpe, 47, who besides being headmaster of a Cardiff comprehensive school, Glyn Dwr, is also something of a publishing phenomenon.

Fanthorpe, 47, writes not textbooks but science fiction, and in Mike Ashley's forthcoming *Science Fiction Book of Lists* is down as the fastest and most prolific practitioner there is.

He began writing for SF pulp magazines when he was 17, has since published over 175 books. One was written in 11 hours.

Most are paperbacks written for Badger Books for

34 passing 1,000 on Friday the first time in weeks the market is down 10% on its recent high.

The Hang Seng Index closed 1,207, up 10 points on the week, with average daily turnover at HK\$16.4m. Brokers now see a

period of consolidation ahead trading ranges between 50 and 1,100, after their support at 1,000. Institutions have returned to the sidelines. They are likely to remain there until clearly emerge from the United States interest in Cheung Kong, was one of the stronger players closing at 16.10. Property companies, reflecting last year's high values, help to lift sentiment in the next few weeks. What's next in the property market since last summer has been continually disputed, discounting rates at a new Hong Kong auction on Thursday led to a new market sense

Fanthorpe the phenomenal which the author retains the rights.

With his wife Patricia, he runs a bookshop in Cardiff specializing in SF and fantasy, and he is a director of the city's firm of specialist SF and fantasy publishers Gryphon Mowbray.

They are publishing an SF trilogy for him, the first volume of which, *Black Lion*, is already out. But, Fanthorpe tells me, the firm is not handling his latest, a blockbuster non-fiction work, written in collaboration with his wife and called *The Mysterious Treasure of Rennes-le-Chateau*.

This is an answer to Baigent, Lincoln & Leigh's *The Holy Blood & The Holy Grail*, and argues that the mysterious holy relic is in the keeping not of the Priory of Zion brotherhood but of Hapsburg sympathizers in Austria.

• **Audrey Matheson**, who is the in-house foreign languages tutor for the Worcester engineering group Redman Heenan International, finds her pupils getting younger all the time. She is now teaching not only Redman's own managers but boys from nearby Malvern College, who are coming for conversation classes, under a cooperation between Martin Rogers, the headmaster of Malvern — who wants children to understand business — and Redman group chief executive John Osola, who is also a governor of Malvern School.

FALMOUTH

Tall story

The Cutty Sark Tall Ships Race returns to British waters in July, bringing with it for John Hamilton and Christopher Green the prospect of an intriguing international confrontation.

Hamilton is the race director of the Sail Training Association, and Green a director of the race's sponsors, Cutty Sark Scotch.

On Sunday, July 23, over 20 sail-training vessels, due to sail from Falmouth to Lisbon, among them the Polish merchant navy's new square-rigger, Dar Mlodizm, and the USSR's fisheries barque, Kruzenshtern.

When the ships reach Lisbon on August 3, Hamilton tells me, there is a "crew interchange" in which crews establish which of their crew would like to complete the final leg to Vigo and back to Southampton aboard a ship of another nationality.

Would any attempt be made to keep Russians and Poles apart? I asked. "No way," says Hamilton. "The whole point of the race is to integrate youngsters of different nations."

Ross Davies

• It looks as if the unemployed are getting on their bikes, as the Employment Secretary, Norman Tebbit, recommends — but not necessarily to look for work. Social authorities in North Wales are pondering reason behind a sudden increase in school registrations of English-speaking children. They suspect English people on the dole are choosing to sit out the recession in beautiful but jobless north Wales rather than in the industrial but equally jobless north-west and north-east of England.

NEW
APPOINTMENTS

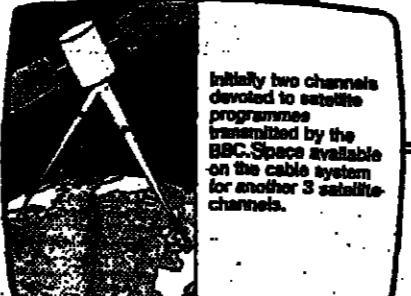
Sir Maurice Hodges has been appointed a director of British Home Stores with effect from April 1.

Mr George Gonsor, Mr Leslie Goodman and Mr Donald Rushman have been appointed to the board of Hill Samuel & Co. with effect from April 1.

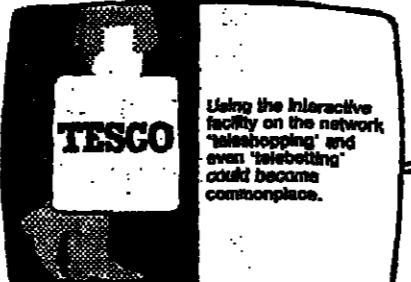
Mr Richard Hornby has been appointed a non-executive director of Cadbury Schweppes.

Mr A. N. J. Brook has been appointed a director of Boddington's Breweries.

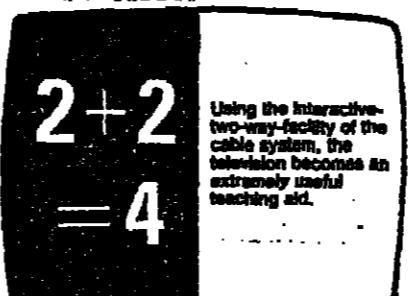
SATELLITE BROADCASTS



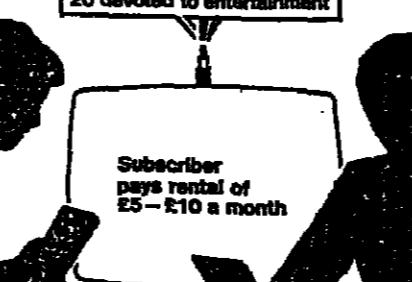
CONSUMER SERVICES



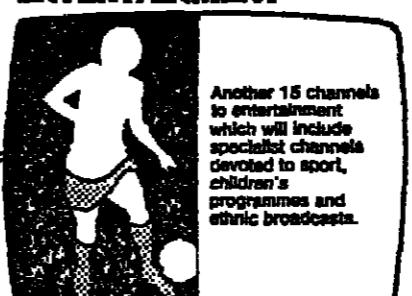
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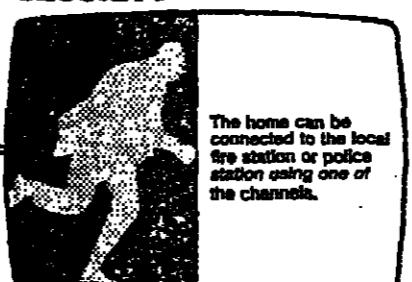
SECURITY



ENTERTAINMENT



ENTERTAINMENT



An extensive cable television network will be recommended by a Government advisory panel report published today. Bill Johnstone explains the implications.

The cable network
that would link
up with your life

The face of broadcasting could change completely within the next two years if the Government accepts the recommendation of the Cabinet's Information Technology Advisory Panel that Britain should have a cable television system of at least 30 channels.

The restrictions on television programming and broadcasting which have managed to contain the number of television channels to a mere three in nearly 50 years of broadcasting would go.

The report, to be published later today, was compiled by experts from industry, the city and the academic world. It suggests 20 entertainment channels and a further 10 for consumer services. In theory they could be operated 24 hours a day.

The first four would be devoted to the normal television broadcasting channels (BBC 1 & 2, ITV and Channel 4). In addition there would be one other ITV channel to carry programmes from one ITV region to another, two BBC direct satellite broadcasting channels and three other satellite channels yet to be assigned.

Other channels might be devoted to children's entertainment, arts, education, sport, sub-titled programming for the deaf, broadcasting foreign language material or to assist those viewers who are hard of hearing. Films, local-national political coverage, a television version of yellow pages and special ethnic channels possibly for West Indian or Asian viewers. Separate channels could also be used to secure premises against fire or burglar by wiring the home to the local fire brigade or police station.

What is being recommended is not purely an entertainment system but a consumer telecommunications system which would provide services for the subscriber, like armchair shopping.

"We consider the long term potential of cable systems for providing new forms of services to be much more important, but have to accept that cable systems will go through an initial phase when their attraction will be based on entertainment considerations," says the report.

The cabinet advisers estimate that each home in a town with a population of about 100,000 could be wired at a cost of between £200-£300.

The electronics in the home required to receive the signals from the cable would cost in the region of £80.

• The advisory panel sought the views of 21 organizations, among them British Telecom, BICC, the BBC, the Electricity Council, the National Economic Development Office, the Open University, Thomas Cook, Debenham's, Ladbrokes, Logica, Tesco and Thomson Regional News-papers.

The report says: "Our investigations have revealed considerable interest by private firms (not only from established cable companies) in the possibility of participating in the cable systems, and we have no doubt that funds would be available to finance the installation of cable systems".

The cable systems would generate substantial business for the British electronic and cable manufacturing industries. The total investment could be in the region of £1,000m a year for the next ten years. The cable cost for wiring 50 per cent of the UK is between £2,000-£3,000m.

If the decision was taken to wire about 70 per cent of British homes to the new cable system the cable costs would rise to £5,000m.

The report is intended to encourage British business interests, and the system recommended may exclude the use of American technology which is built to meet different technical standards.

British Telecom is already advanced in fibre optic cabling technology — the use of thin glass fibres the width of a human hair to carry the amount of data contained in 2,000 simultaneous telephone calls. British cable companies like BICC and STC would also be involved.

Film makers and those companies which own the copyright to programming

material — the BBC and Thom-EMI, for example — could make a lot of money.

Thom-EMI owns the copyright to a substantial catalogue of films which are already available or will soon be available on video. These same films could be made available on cable. The BBC has a large archive of copyright material suitable for transmission on the cable systems. The extra money generated by such secondary income could lessen the pressure on the corporation to seek licence fee increases.

The cable system recommended would be interactive (two way) allowing the viewer to respond to what is appearing on the screen. This facility would allow retail stores to develop "teleshopping". Tesco, which contributed to the cable report, is already running a "teleshopping" experiment in Gateshead. It has set up terminals at remote sites from the Tesco store on which customers can order groceries for delivery.

A similar approach is expected to be taken by travel agents who will allow viewers to book tickets and holidays direct from their armchair. Race meetings and possibly even "telebetting" might be available on the system, provided by race course owners or bookmakers.

Companies which rely on television advertising may find another vehicle for selling their products. British viewers might be able to watch regularly sponsored programmes, at present not allowed by the Independent Broadcasting Authority. The report says: "Additional income could come from advertising and perhaps sponsorship."

Companies which rely on television advertising may find another vehicle for selling their products. British viewers might be able to watch regularly sponsored programmes, at present not allowed by the Independent Broadcasting Authority. The report says: "Additional income could come from advertising and perhaps sponsorship."

• The most sophisticated system already in operation and those in the United States and in Canada. A number of American cities are now making plans to install systems with as many as 200 channels. Dallas, Atlanta, Houston, San Francisco and New York are among the leaders.

In Boston, New England for a payment of \$2 a month a subscriber to the new cable system (expected to be in operation by 1984) will have the choice of 52 channels and for additional payments a further selection from another 53 channels.

In Britain seven groups are involved in an experiment into cable television. They are: Rediffusion, Visionair, Cable, Philips Cable Television, Radio Rentals, Cable Television, Greenwich Cable, and Cablevision, and British Telecom. The experiment which began last year was intended to last two years and was meant to gauge the public's reaction to cable.

Most of these systems carry the three broadcast television channels and about three or four more. These experimental networks have about 110,000 subscribers in all. Some 2.6 million homes already have their television pictures provided by cable usually because of local reception difficulties.

The advisory panel is confident that enough finance is available. "Even with less than 100 per cent take-up of the system there would appear to be sufficient income from subscribers to give a reasonable return on capital."

The panel would like to see the go-ahead given by the middle of this year and the regulations established by the beginning of next year. "Such licensing could take place initially under existing legislation and administrative arrangements."

The likely deficit is being put at anything between 120,000m francs and 150,000m francs, equivalent to 4 to 5 per cent of GDP, compared with 1.1 per cent in 1980.

The French Government is hoping that its wage and price controls will help to bring inflation down to 10 per cent by the end of this year. By contrast, the OECD, in its recent sober assessment, sees all the

ministers last week.

Although the profit outlook is good for 1982, the big uncertainty is just how the Chancellor plans to carry out his budget threat of ensuring a reasonable tax take from the banks. The banks pay very little United Kingdom tax although they argue strongly that industry gets much of the benefit through the cheap leasing finance they provide.

• After what appears to have been a relatively low level of interest in last week's offering of Government index-linked stock, what happens next? The market had driven down the yield on the existing stocks to below 2½ per cent at one stage on the assumption that the opening up of the market to all comers would produce a significant response. But now that response has not materialized, the market will have to find a new level. Private investors who have not yet tucked a little of the stock away in their portfolios, can probably afford to wait and see what happens next. The market to all comers would produce a significant response. But now that response has not materialized, the market will have to find a new level. Private investors who have not yet tucked a little of the stock away in their portfolios, can probably afford to wait and see what happens next.

The trade deficit, too, remains stubbornly intractable as relatively rapid inflation and an overvalued exchange rate hurt the competitiveness of French products. A devaluation within the EMS of around 6

Business Editor

French expansion
threatens EMS

It may have taken elections to focus the attention of the foreign exchange markets on the deficiencies of the franc. But the actual outcome of Sunday's second round of local government polls is unlikely to have more than a temporary impact on the currency's sagging fortunes.

The fact that investors, having taken a good look at the French economy, are increasingly alarmed at what they see: a burgeoning state budget deficit which this year may rise to five times its 1980 pre-Mitterrand level; a persistently high inflation rate, presently around 14 per cent, which shows little sign of easing; and a growing balance of trade deficit.

Strains within the European Monetary System were inevitable once France decided to go its own way and pursue an expansionary course in the face of the restrictive policies adopted by other members. Indeed, the French risk precipitating the possible collapse of the system.

Though the EMS may not have succeeded in securing greater convergence of members' economies this

year, falling interest rates and rising costs have put pressure on domestic clearing banks. This was only partly offset by the banks widening the spreads between their base and deposit rates.

Lloyds managed to buck the domestic trend by controlling costs and pushing up market share and Midland has also proved an odd man out: employees reductions helped towards the smallest rise in domestic staff costs of all the banks allowing the clearing bank to show an improvement from a poor result the previous year. However Midland's international side was held at unchanged profits because of higher bad debt provisions.

Even outside the EMS, the franc could be in persistent trouble. Things are not working out as the Government hoped and planned. The budget deficit for 1982 of 95,000m francs (£8,500m), equivalent to about 2½ per cent of Gross Domestic Product, is expected to be overtaken by unplanned extra public spending and slower than expected economic growth which will dampen revenues.

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The trade deficit, too, remains stubbornly intractable as relatively rapid inflation and an overvalued exchange rate hurt the competitiveness of French products. A devaluation within the EMS of around 6

per cent is thought necessary by some analysts. But so long as the French are pursuing different policies from everybody else no one believes that the next devaluation, when it comes, will be the end of the story. Unless France changes its policies, or pulls out of the EMS as some have advocated, the EMS has a rocky road ahead.

Banks

Tax fears

Midland Bank rounded off the dividend season last week with only unchanged profits but this still left aggregate profits for the big four up by 15 per cent to a record £1,679m. This year profits are expected to be higher still with City stockbrokers W. Greenwell, for instance, forecasting an overall rise to more than £2,000m.

Much of the 1981 rise has come from international operations. Most of the increase at Barclays from £524m to £567m pretax came from Barclays International. National Westminster's international division made higher profits and Lloyds also showed big gains on overseas operations.

In contrast, falling interest rates and rising costs have put pressure on domestic clearing banks. This was only partly offset by the banks widening the spreads between their base and deposit rates.

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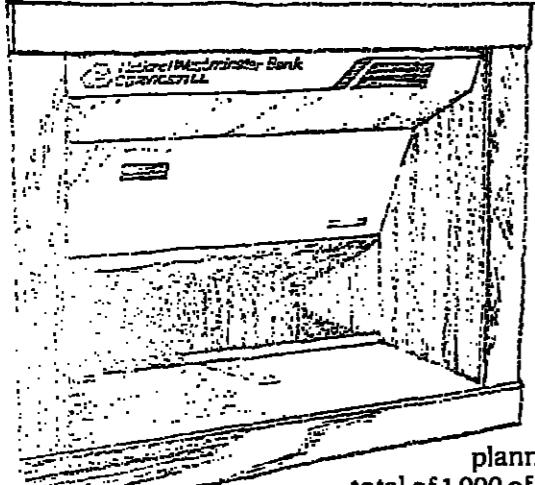
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A world's eye view from NatWest

Extending our service to customers



In the increasingly competitive environment in 1982 we will continue to concentrate all our efforts into providing a first-class service to our customers, recognising their special and often individual needs. We now have well over 500 Servicetills operating on a 24-hour basis throughout the U.K., dispensing over £40m each month, already the largest network of its type in Europe. It is planned to have a

total of 1,000 of these machines by the end of 1983. Towards the end of this year we plan to introduce a new quick-action customer-operated cash dispensing machine sited inside branches.

The NatWest Mortgage Service

National Westminster Home Loans now provides a valued and convenient source of mortgage finance. The rapid success of our scheme shows there is substantial demand for this form of personal financial service from the banks and it is right that we should compete with the building societies on an appropriate scale.



We are now firmly established in this market and look forward to developing our service over the coming year.

NatWest and Small Businesses

We have continued our policy of support for small businesses and have again held down interest rates on Business Development Loans whilst raising the upper limit for this facility to £250,000 to meet the needs of our customers. We completed during 1981, for instance, our £50,000th loan under our Business Development Loan Scheme and an increase of over 40% in lending to a total of £489m indicates the value and flexibility, as well as the competitiveness, of this kind of facility. We are also lending under the Government's Small Firms Loan Guarantee Scheme and our interest terms are the cheapest of the four major clearing banks.



A Royal Opening for the National Westminster Tower

The cover of our Annual Report shows the Royal Standard flying over the National Westminster Tower on 11 June 1981. This was truly a memorable occasion when we were honoured by a visit by Her Majesty the Queen to declare the Tower formally open.

NatWest Bank Trophy

1981 saw the introduction of the competition for the National Westminster Bank Trophy. After a series of exciting matches, the Trophy was won by Derbyshire – literally on the last ball – when they defeated Northants in a closely contested Final at Lord's.



Comments from the Chairman – Mr Robin Leigh-Pemberton

The improved profit is attributable to increased volumes of business handled by a marginally smaller number of staff using increasingly sophisticated electronic equipment. It is a very satisfactory performance particularly having in mind the 3% reduction in the average base rate in the UK and shows that our profits are little influenced by fortuitous circumstances outside our control.

The world economy during 1981 was very subdued, with low growth and rising unemployment in most countries. Governments in general were unable to adopt expansionary policies, because inflation remained high and payments imbalances were still very large. 1981 will be remembered as a frustrating year for the British economy and it has become apparent that the high inflation of past years is deeply embedded leaving British industry more seriously uncompetitive than remedial measures over the past two years have been able to correct. Government measures which are designed to reduce the cost burden on industry and to enable it to be more competitive are most likely to stimulate economic activity without introducing inflationary pressure. We therefore think it right to support the Government's broad monetary strategy; for us as a bank it has been a matter of judicious

Financial Highlights 1981

Ordinary share capital	£237 million
Reserves	£1,969 million
Money lodged	£39,709 million
Money lent	£31,791 million
Group pre-tax profit	£494 million
Retained profit	£273 million

Copies of the Report and Accounts, which include the Chairman's Statement may be obtained from the Secretary's Office, National Westminster Bank PLC, 41 Lothbury, London EC2P 2BP.

balance to ensure that at the same time we were not insensitive to the needs of our customers.

Our international banking policy remains appropriate to the difficult and highly competitive world scene, and we continue to seek good opportunities for growth of our existing business and expansion of our representation. We remain confident that our overseas loan portfolio is carefully balanced and distributed, and we shall continue to observe those principles of policy which we believe will contain our risks to acceptable levels. In the United States there is some prospect of recovery in the latter part of 1982 which should help to stimulate the economies of the industrialised countries in Europe.

I should say something by way of explanation of a policy of allowing loans for personal consumption to rise at a time when the demand from manufacturing and exporting customers remains below the level of available bank credit. Most personal loans are structured to be of short duration and repayment terms in our experience are scrupulously observed. We feel satisfied, therefore, in extending to that category of customer which contributes so much to our deposit base, a service which will not conflict with a commitment to provide adequate funds for manufacturing and exporting customers when the economy expands and the need arises.

National Westminster Bank Group

One of the world's leading banks

GARRARD
antique and
modern jewellery
and silver.
Established 1735. The Queen's Jewellers.
100 New Bond Street, London, W1A 2LG. 01 580 2670.

Stock Exchange Prices

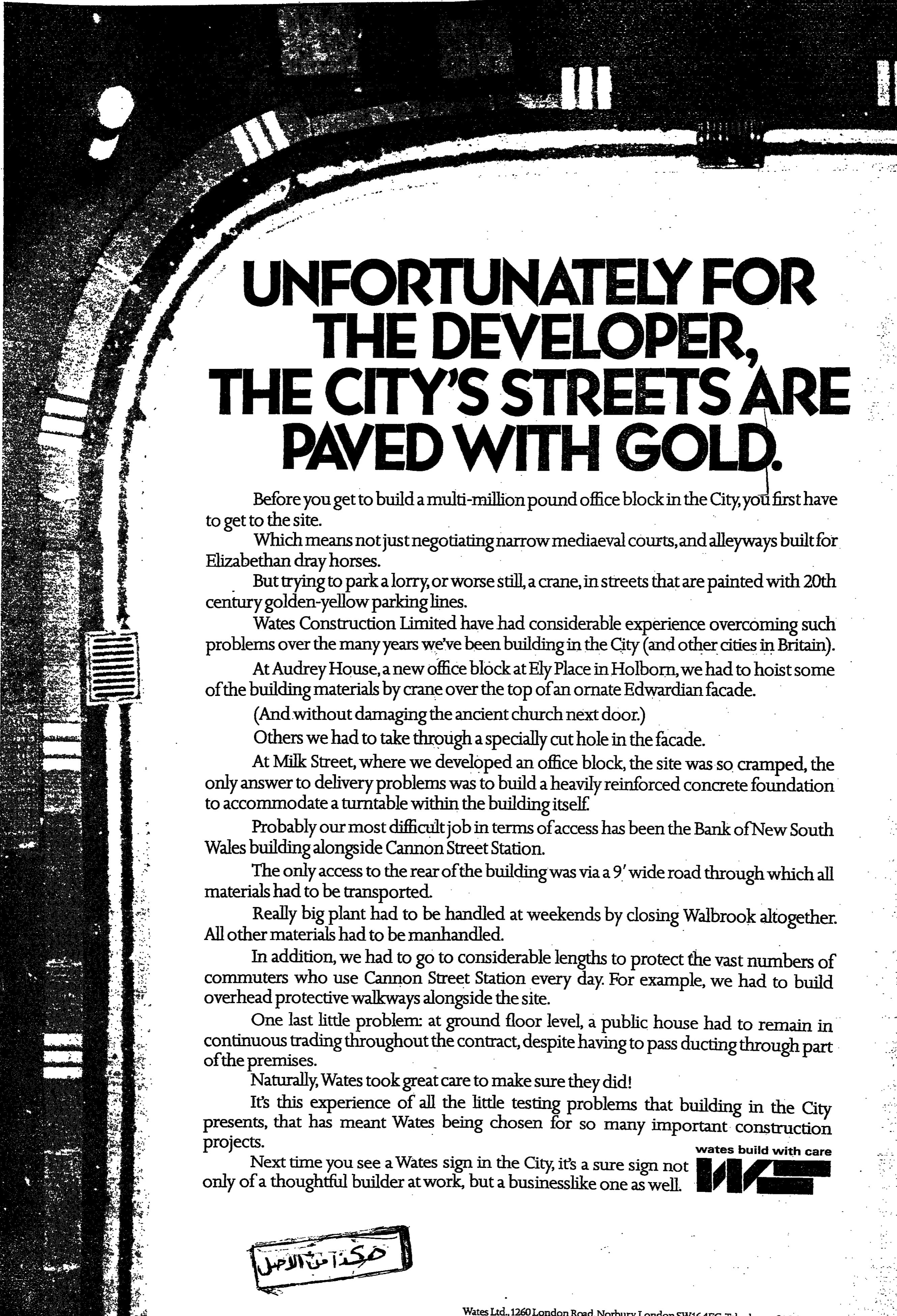
Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, March 15. Dealings End, March 26. § Contango Day, March 29. Settlement Day, April

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

* Ex dividend. ^a Ex all. ^b Forecast dividend. ^c Corrected price. ^d Interim payment passed. ^f Price at suspension. ^g Dividend and yield exclude a special payment. ^h Bid for company. ⁱ Pre-merger figures. ^j Forecast earnings. ^m Ex capital distribution. ⁿ Ex rights. ^o Ex scrip or share split. ^p Ex tax free. ^q Price adjusted for late dealings. ^{..} No significant data.



UNFORTUNATELY FOR THE DEVELOPER, THE CITY'S STREETS ARE PAVED WITH GOLD.

Before you get to build a multi-million pound office block in the City, you first have to get to the site.

Which means not just negotiating narrow mediaeval courts, and alleyways built for Elizabethan dray horses.

But trying to park a lorry, or worse still, a crane, in streets that are painted with 20th century golden-yellow parking lines.

Wates Construction Limited have had considerable experience overcoming such problems over the many years we've been building in the City (and other cities in Britain).

At Audrey House, a new office block at Ely Place in Holborn, we had to hoist some of the building materials by crane over the top of an ornate Edwardian facade.

(And without damaging the ancient church next door.)

Others we had to take through a specially cut hole in the facade.

At Milk Street, where we developed an office block, the site was so cramped, the only answer to delivery problems was to build a heavily reinforced concrete foundation to accommodate a turntable within the building itself.

Probably our most difficult job in terms of access has been the Bank of New South Wales building alongside Cannon Street Station.

The only access to the rear of the building was via a 9' wide road through which all materials had to be transported.

Really big plant had to be handled at weekends by closing Walbrook altogether. All other materials had to be manhandled.

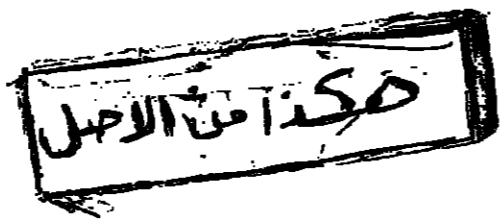
In addition, we had to go to considerable lengths to protect the vast numbers of commuters who use Cannon Street Station every day. For example, we had to build overhead protective walkways alongside the site.

One last little problem: at ground floor level, a public house had to remain in continuous trading throughout the contract, despite having to pass ducting through part of the premises.

Naturally, Wates took great care to make sure they did!

It's this experience of all the little testing problems that building in the City presents, that has meant Wates being chosen for so many important construction projects.

Next time you see a Wates sign in the City, it's a sure sign not only of a thoughtful builder at work, but a businesslike one as well.



Wates Ltd, 1260 London Road, Norbury, London SW16 4EG. Telephone: 01-764 5000.

FOOTBALL—Swansea, Manchester United, Liverpool, Ipswich and Tottenham make progress while Southampton, Manchester City and Arsenal stumble

Three-goal Roberts is Spurs top cockerel

By Stuart Jones

Tottenham 3
 Southampton 2
 The crass stupidity of the overbated and archaic League seems again likely to prevent the hard apparent from being crowned. Just as Ipswich Town were denied their title last season, so Tottenham Hotspur, in whose hands the destiny of the championship now lies, are about to be punished for the same crime, being too successful.

In depositing Southampton, the leaders for seven weeks, Spurs completed the forty-fourth match of their golden seven months. They are now half as many again in the next two weeks, including four games within seven days immediately after two cup semi-finals and after the departure of Ardiles at the dawn of April.

Hotspur already triumphed at the fifth "double" in their fifth season, and they still have to be introduced to four sides and three of those are leading contenders — Arsenal, Ipswich Town and, most decisively of all, Liverpool, their conquerors in the League Cup final. They must now face Swansea City at home and Manchester United away.

It is clear then that Spurs control the race, the highest of their three ambitions, but fitness will be their biggest threat. For instance, when Birmingham City tomorrow night, they will be without the injured Crooke, Ardiles and Miller are doubtful and Archibald and Price are

absent on international duty. Keith Burkinshaw, their manager, expects to be missing three or four of his players each match from now on.

"The first division should be limited to no more than 18 teams," he said. "People say that receipts would go down but games like this will always draw big crowds. We know that we'll have to get the players to go on again like that. I think the shell should like that be up there in the first division. The League should be reduced but the way they think at the moment, they would never do that.

Mr. Burkinshaw has suggested that, to avoid the destructive self-preservation of clubs in the lower divisions, the bigger clubs should combine to put forward what could be a powerful argument. It may have been said before, but it is now time to admit that surely the idea cannot continue to be ignored.

There is no need for the imagination of these two sides to be refreshed. With an archaic League, they entered the biggest League crowd at White Hart Lane this season in a match that unfolded into three sections. For 30 minutes they played "a hell of a game" in the words of McMenamy, Southampton's manager. The next half hour belonged to Spurs in general and Roberts in particular, the last half hour to Southampton.

Roberts, playing instead of the injured Ardiles, must have scored six himself. He was as elusive as the cockerel that struttet around the pitch before the kick-off. From Hoddle's chip

to his goal, he was a picture of an efficient Spurs steward.

Mr. McMenamy picked out Clemence as the decisive difference between the two sides.

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR: R Clemence; C Houghton, P Miller, P Price, M Hazard, S Perriman, G Roberts, S Archibald, A Givens, D Hoddle, J Ardiles, J Miller, S Miller. S SOUTHAMPTON: J Katahine, R Abdulla, N Holden, G Baker, C Nicholl, M Watson, D McMenamy, S Williams, D Armstrong, A Bell (sub D Puckett). Referee: J Denkin (Geddesfordshire).

Swansea wear the smiles of leaders

By John Clemson

Wolverhampton 0
 Swansea 1

John Toshack, the Swansea manager, has reason to smile this week. Not only is he celebrating his 33rd birthday, but on Saturday the former Welsh international saw his side reach the top of the first division for the third time this season.

It was indeed a fine goal, but it was hardly a reason for complacency. On another day, the persistence of Clarke, Palmer, Gray, Carr and Hibbitt, for Wolves, would have brought about at least a goal in return. Clarke hit the foot of the post with a fierce drive, but Gray and Hibbitt were each involved in a succession of scrambles on the Swansea goalmouth.

Wolves' inability to score from their chances is doubtless why their manager, Ian Greaves, said afterwards that he planned to give his side even more shooting practice this week.

Swansea are top, more by default than by their own efforts. They are a good all-round side on their day, but in the crowded league programme next month they will come against sides less charitable than Wolves and that will be a stern test of their progress.

WOLVES: J Bradshaw, J Murphy, G. Gray, K. Hibbitt, C. Evans, R. Clarke, G. Palmer, J. Gray, C. Carr, A. Gray, M. Evans, K. Wilcock, N. Williams, N. Stevenson, N. Robinson, T. Fletcher (Bolton). Referee: T Fletcher (Bolton).

Never strike a bet with that man in a thousand

By Gerry Harrison

Ipswich Town 3
 Aston Villa 1

The lessons learnt from this convincing win at Portman Road were threefold. First, that Ipswich, with a third of their League programme remaining, are still well placed for the championship despite their injuries. Second, playing away from home immediately after a tough European Cup tie is not to the liking of many players, certainly few of Villa's here. And third, that striking a casual wager with John Wark can be costly.

Here Ipswich were without through long-term injuries, Cooper and D'Avray suffering from short-term strains. Yet for only 20 minutes in the second half could Villa claim any territorial supremacy. Brazil, Mills and Osman were key figures in three different departments.

Outstanding goals from Wark and McCafferty gave them a clear interval lead. A third from Gates

finished Villa off, although McCafferty later knee an unsatisfactory goal which did not mean a great deal.

Villa, weakened by the absence of Montero, Brewster and Wicks, had only Sharp, Evans and McCafferty willing and able to fight the good fight. The spies from Anderlecht, their European Cup semi-final opponents, learnt little except that Evans should win his cap for Scotland this week.

As for Wark, he is clearly in a winning line. Before the game he had scored 390 in 17 seasons of first division football. He bet me £5 he would score the 1,000th, conceding that penalties, his responsibility, would not count. The odds were ludicrously in my favour but when the Scot smashed in a 20-yard shot in the 25th minute it was clear that Villa were not the only losers here.

Ipswich Town: L. Sharp, G. Wark, A. McCafferty, R. Cooper, G. Brazil, M. Osman, C. Mills, D. Cooper, G. Gates. Referee: T Fletcher (Bolton).

Aston Villa: J. Fletcher, K. Sharp, G. Brazil, A. McCafferty, R. Cooper, T. Wark, T. Bulpitt, A. Bulpitt, G. Evans, J. Fletcher, G. Shaw, T. Donnan, G. Coombes, A. Morley. Referee: M. James (Nottingham).

The first 23 minutes of this game passed in the contemplation of the weather, with many of spending a Saturday afternoon queuing at the supermarket, perhaps, or washing the car, or even pressing flowers.

Then, amazingly, Chelsea scored. Lee crossed behind the defence, Mayes attracted the ball, and Riddell-Brown rushed in on the blind side for his first league goal of the season.

That was enough to awaken Rotherham. Four minutes later, Towner pulled the ball back for himself and scored his 39th goal, a further five minutes elapsed before Moore, with remarkably little opposition, headed home Towner's corner. In the 40th minute, Hughes' diagonal cross evaded Francis and his defenders, who seemed to be trying to set some sort of irrelevant record for the number of irrelevant goals to stand simultaneously on the pitch.

Moore tapped the ball in at the far post and Chelsea's heads went down, never to rise again.

Rotherham's patient control of the ball had which exposed the home team as toothless at the front, irresponsibly effete in midfield and confused at the back, was rewarded in the 80th minute when Towner, on a seated pressman surrounded by standing colleagues, tested Venables' cockney wit. "Where is Toulouse Lauret?" the manager asked.

Venables' humour was understandable, considering his side had restored their ailing promotion hopes. The pleasure of seeing his young striker Allen, football's poor little rich boy for

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The chemistry between Alan Mullery and Terry Venables has always been a potential source of trouble, but the two men seem to have found a mutual respect and admiration for each other.

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CRICKET

Rebels unlikely to sue board

From John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent, Cape Town, March 22

Ill-fated though their tour has been, and despite being bracketed sideways by the ban imposed on them at Lord's on Friday, South African Breweries English eleven are giving a better account of themselves in the second of their three four-day games against the full South African side, with one day to go then, lost by 24 runs, with nine second wickets in hand, having bowled the South Africans out for 235.

If the English fans feel let down, as of course they do, Gough and his players are wondering where their friends have gone. As I wrote when the news of the tour first broke, three long weeks ago, I had hoped the Test and County Cricket Board would be looking to be as lenient as they reasonably could and to preserve, albeit within tighter limits, the freedom of their players. But it was not to be. They over-reacted. The hard-liners carried the day. Although the result, the players must have a case for suing for restraint of trade, they are likely, I think to pursue it.

Newlands was at its spellbinding best today — bathed in sunshine, pretty nearly full, the oaks and willows rustled by a strong breeze. The Englishmen bowed with their heads, and Ken and Kirsten made 114.

Australia poised to square series

From Peter McFarlane, Christchurch, March 21

Australians are poised to win the third Test and square the series, after two New Zealand batting collapses over the weekend. After the third day's play, New Zealand were 181 for seven in their second innings, needing another 225 to bat out and force Australia to bat a second time.

Earlier in the day, New Zealand were forced to follow-on after they were dismissed for 149, 203 runs behind the Australians' first innings of 353. Australia were without the services of Lillee, and New Zealand's second innings Lillee broke down with carriage trouble in his right knee after taking three wickets for one run in 11 balls on Saturday.

Australia achieved total domination during the weekend, firstly through the batting of the captain, Greg Chappell, who scored 76 and the Australian innings of 353 and later through the bowling of Lillee and Thomson who bowled at a frightening pace.

Secretarial and Non-secretarial Appointments

LA CREME DE LA CREME

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

SECRETARY

To the head of its newly-created CAMPAIGN AND MEMBERSHIP DEPARTMENT

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